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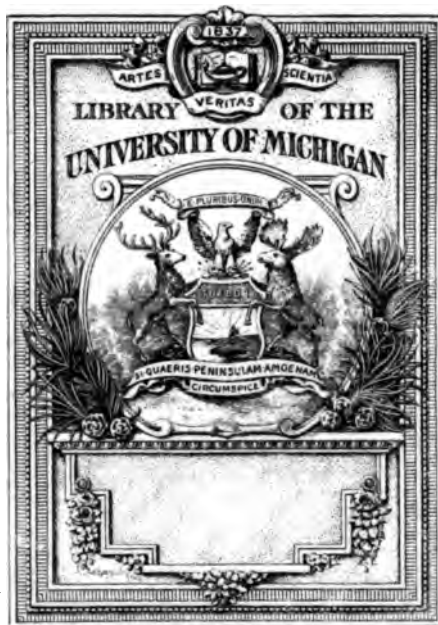
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The Library

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A MAGAZINE OF BIBLIOGRAPHY
AND LITERATURE EDITED BY
J. Y. W. MAC ALISTER, F.S.A.



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The Library.

On the Necessity for the Formation of a Bibliographical Society of the United Kingdom and Suggestions as to its Operations.*

IT seems surprising that amongst the many Societies which have sprung into existence in this country during recent years, there has been no purely Bibliographical Association. And yet, without question, no subject has occupied a more increasingly attractive place in the literature of the country during the last twenty years than Bibliography. Probably during this period a greater number of works on this subject has appeared than during the previous part of the century. In France and Germany for a long time past the study has been extensively cultivated and has engaged the attention of many minds, but only in recent years has it appeared to acquire its true position in English literature. No doubt the tendency of recent legislation, the increased facilities for education, the formation of Free Libraries and other circumstances, have operated to engender and foster a love of sounder literature and a desire for a greater knowledge of existing works on various subjects. But considering how many are engaged in Bibliographical research, or interested in the study of Bibliography in this country, it is simply surprising that there is no bond of union amongst them whatever. Are there not at the present moment large classes of inquirers upon the subject in this country knowing nothing of inquirers upon the same subject even in the same towns, and except in individual cases knowing nothing of one another save what they learn from their writings? At present there is no common meeting ground for such persons, and yet Bibliography is specially a subject in which one can

* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association held at Nottingham, September, 1891.

render much aid to others with practically no loss to himself. A society such as suggested would have a two-fold result, for independent of the general effect of such a Society in forming a taste for Bibliographical literature in the general public, it would have an important effect upon the members themselves. There is, in the first place, the companionship with men of similar tastes and habits—the association of those conversant with a certain subject, consequently the concentration of ideas, the possibility of unity of action and the accomplishment of that by the association of some, which never would be attempted by one alone.

In *Notes and Queries*, more than twenty years ago, Mr. Axon expressed his surprise that amongst the many societies doing useful work in their own peculiar field, there was not amongst them a Society of Bibliographers, and he said: "Some knowledge of Bibliography is necessary to every man who is engaged in any literary or scientific pursuit; an acquaintance with it may save him years of useless toil. The bibliographer aids the student in every department of human thought and observation; the theologian, the antiquary, the *savant*—all need his aid. He records their labours, and is constantly noting the new discoveries in the map of human learning. There is no occasion here to insist upon the importance of bibliography. Why, then, is there no society for its advancement? Let bibliographers consider this question. Lowndes, we are told by Mr. Bohn, complained that the bibliographer had no standing in England. A somewhat higher value is put upon these studies now, but the establishment of such a society as is here suggested would undoubtedly aid in giving to bibliographers still more of that position to which they are entitled in the republic of letters. When such an association is organized, there is plenty of work which it might usefully do. A general literary index would then be something of a possibility, the vexed question of cataloguing would probably find a solution, much light would be thrown upon literary history, special bibliographies of particular subjects might be brought out under its protection, and it would be able to accomplish for Europe that which the Smithsonian Institution does for America in the way of promoting friendly relations between different literary institutions and men." One of the great objects of a Bibliographical Society would be the meeting of what is evidently now felt to be a necessity—a complete Bibliography of English

Literature. It is nothing less than a matter of national reproach that such a work has not yet been accomplished. Watts's *Bibliotheca Britannica*, and Lowndes's *Bibliographer's Manual* were both valiant attempts to meet the need, but they are both out of date, and with every allowance possible, at no time possessed those features which must characterise a work to be regarded as an adequate representation of English literature. These writers are not to blame because they have come short of the standard required; for the work is too considerable for any one man to execute effectually. Neither is there sufficient inducement to any man to make the attempt to supply the want. What were the rewards meted out to the two bibliographers mentioned? They both devoted their lives to their labour, and the result was pecuniary loss. Watts's self-imposed task occupied over twenty years of labour, and the MS. in fifty-seven folio volumes, now in the Paisley Free Library, is a standing evidence of his indefatigable industry and unwearied perseverance in a department of labour which, however valuable in its results, possessed to most minds but few inducements. It is clear that for the work to be successfully accomplished it must be taken in hand by a society, and effected by the union and united action of bibliographers, and there seems to be no reason why an attempt should not be made. Look at the great dictionary of the English language now in course of publication. Why should not similar means be adopted to collect materials for a general English Bibliography? A competent editor is required and willing co-operators. It is truly wonderful what may be accomplished by an association when guided by unanimity of thought and earnestness of purpose. Personally I would go further, as I consider a Universal Bibliography possible, but this is not what is suggested at present. Let each country undertake its own bibliography. In this country the publication of the British Museum Catalogue opens the way to something still more complete—this catalogue would certainly form the basis of a complete list of every work published in the United Kingdom. I have sometimes thought that the British Museum authorities might have undertaken this work, but there is no reason why it should not be undertaken by a society. The printed catalogue might be interleaved and bound in volumes. As this catalogue has been taken by many of the public libraries and is, I know, in many of the Free Libraries, the various Librarians might be asked to compare their own catalogues

with this and send a note up to the Society of any English works they possess which do not appear in the British Museum Catalogue. No doubt some time would be occupied, but not so much probably as supposed by many. About three years ago I went through every entry in the catalogue, so far as then printed, and compared the catalogue of my own library with it, and could myself, therefore, give a list of many works which are not in the national collection. I doubt whether there would be much difficulty in finding a person in most towns who would do this work. Then a person might be employed by the Society in continually entering up the lists received from the Librarians and others, and also in entering in the interleaved volumes the books mentioned by Watts, Lowndes, Allibone and others not appearing in the British Museum Catalogue. Another work much required is a new edition of Hain's *Repertorium Bibliographicum*. Investigations of recent years have brought to light many fifteenth century books omitted by Hain, and these should all be entered. And there seems no reason why the Society should not undertake the publication of a list of fifteenth century works founded on Hain, but uniting the advantages of descriptions and particulars contained in Brunet and others. This is a work much required, and one which would be heartily welcomed by all bibliographers. They usually require for fifteenth century books more than the simple collation of Hain, and more than they find in the way of collation in Brunet. Another work which might be taken in hand by a Bibliographical Society would be a work in which a facsimile specimen by the best known process should be given of every known press in the fifteenth century. Nothing would help more to the identifying of anonymously printed books and tracts, nor display better the progress of the art of printing and its various stages of development. No doubt when we consider that Hain gave a list of 1,210 different printers, and we remember that sometimes these had various classes of types, such a work would be a formidable task, but certainly not one which could not be accomplished by a Society of Bibliographers such as that proposed to be established. A note might accompany each facsimile, stating the printer where known, and the work from which the specimen has been taken. There are many other works which might be taken in hand by such a society. For instance—a complete *Bibliotheca Bibliographica*, giving the titles of the bibliographies (general and special) of all countries, with catalogues of public

and private libraries, also of the more extensive and remarkable book auction sales—somewhat on the lines of Horne's second volume of his *Introduction to the Study of Bibliography*. This would best be done by a person in each of the several countries. The value of such information up to the present date could hardly be overrated. As Dr. Johnson says, in his account of the Harleian Library, "By means of catalogues only can it be known what has been written on every part of learning, and the hazard avoided of encountering difficulties which have already been cleared, discussing questions which have already been decided, and digging in mines of literature which former ages have exhausted. How often this has been the fate of students, every man of letters can declare ; and, perhaps, there are very few who have not sometimes valued as new discoveries made by themselves, those observations which have long since been published, and of which the world, therefore, will refuse them the praise ; nor can the refusal be censured, as any enormous violation of justice ; for why should they not forfeit by their ignorance, what they might claim by their sagacity ? "

But the days have past by for impressing the necessity for catalogues—no longer is it requisite to formulate an excuse for their existence—least of all to a company such as that here present.

A society such as I have suggested would be the means of bringing together those of similar tastes—men engaged in the same study, and would, I feel certain, have a wide field of usefulness. Periodical meetings would be held for the reading of papers and discussion of subjects connected with books, and for mutual assistance in such directions as the bibliographers of writers of note, special subjects, localities, publishers, printers, &c., also for the exhibition of rare or remarkable books, and the furnishing information as to eminent collectors and collections of books, celebrated book sales, eminent printers and publishers, notable catalogues and subjects connected with typography and bookbinding. Such a society would almost of necessity have its centre and head-quarters in London, but in order that it should receive general support all over the kingdom, it should have, I consider, branches in the larger towns, at least in those where sufficient support can be obtained. The object of this is to encourage as much as possible local talent, and to make as widespread as possible the usefulness of the society. One cannot help being struck with the fact of how large a portion of the

members of the societies in the Metropolis are cut off from some of the most important advantages of the society by non-residence there. This would be met by the suggestion as to local branches. Probably, in any town where fifty members joined, a local branch could be established. Where such a branch was formed, it should have a local council and secretary, and periodical meetings be held at which papers might be read. A selection of these papers might be made by the Central Council in London for publication in the Society's Journal, which should be issued from time to time. The local council should be composed of certain members chosen by the general assembly of members in the particular town. This council should be elected annually, and should elect from among themselves a president, vice-president, treasurer, and honorary secretary. The local president should, by virtue of his office, be a member of the Central Council in London. Probably it would be found advisable to permit persons to join the local branches without their becoming members of the Central Society.

One of the objects of such a local branch should be the formation of a library chiefly dealing with Bibliography. The importance of this object can scarcely be exaggerated, for though it is true that in some of the larger towns, the librarians of the public libraries have, in the reference department, paid special attention to this subject, yet this is not invariably the case. I believe I am correct in saying that there is no copy of *Panzer* even in the Reference Library in Manchester. To those who are not blessed with a superfluous amount of this world's goods, an extensive library of Bibliographical works would be of great value. We all know the expense of such works, and how of late years there has been a remarkable rise in their marketable value. When once such a library has been started, the liberality of individuals in the neighbourhood would probably aid in its increase.

I have no doubt that a society such as I have suggested would tend to bring together individuals who have one common study and pursuit at heart. It would become the medium of communication of their discoveries, labours, and opinions to the public, and give a stimulus to the study of Bibliography, which would result in a higher tone of literary taste,—a bringing to light of many long-hidden gems of classic merit, and an infusion of the sounder parts of antique learning, with the lighter touches which characterise our modern literature.

I consider the necessity for such a society so absolute, that the matter should not be allowed to remain longer in suggestion only. I would, therefore, invite all those who would join such a society, or aid it in any way, to send in their names to me at once, so that a preliminary meeting to consider the subject may be held forthwith.

W. A. COPINGER.

*The Priory,
Manchester.*



Some Librarian-made Books and Titles.*

I ONCE had a notion of calling this paper "The infinite potentiality of the librarian." There was a fine rolling sound about "infinite potentiality" that seemed very soothing, and therefore it was reluctantly that I gave it up, but I never quite forget any paper that I hear at the meetings, monthly or annual, of the Library Association, and with the remembrance of an exhortation from one of the Secretaries not to use "high falutin" words when good plain Saxon ones are available, I had to let "infinite potentiality" slide overboard. But there is a good deal to be said for it. The librarian's powers are probably greater than most people would think. By judicious catalogue description he may obtain a reading for many a book which the author's misleading and imperfect title has suicidally injured; and also, as I hope to show in the later part of this paper, by judicious selections of magazine articles bound together in subject volumes, he may call to vigorous and active life articles that had died with the month of their currency and were entombed in the bound volumes.

The last paper I read before this Association was called "Some misleading titles of modern books" and in it I indulged in the pleasure derived from showing up other people's misdoings, by a growl at authors, editors, reviewers, and publishers, for misleading us in the titles they have chosen for their books; their crimes being repetition or use of already adopted titles; imperfection or use of inadequately descriptive titles; and misdirection or absolutely misleading titles giving a wrong impression about the subject of the work. As a practical sequel to that paper, I desire in the present one to show what powers the librarian has for rectifying these errors; and I venture to bring it before the annual meeting of the Association because it suggests a departure from the established rule that catalogue entries should be, under limitation of cost or space, transcripts of title-pages.

* Read before the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, held at Nottingham, September, 1891.

We librarians, it is not too much to say, must always be in the fore-front of the world's progress. We carry the ammunition, without which the mind-victors of the world cannot fight ; and it is of no light importance that all appliances for making it portable and handy, and carrying it well, should be used to the best advantage.

We librarians, each set in charge of a little corner of the kingdom of literature, must each of us feel, to some extent, every book on our shelves, and every reader that frequents our libraries, to be engraven upon our hearts ; though not invariably, as regards either books or even readers, with affection, admiration, or respect. (*Fair* readers, of course, excepted.) But anyhow, we want every reader, agreeable or disagreeable, to get to read the right books which shall do him or her the most good, in his particular circumstances, and according to his particular bent of mind ; and we want every book to be introduced to the right readers, so that the good that is in that book shall root and fructify as it best may.

I doubt not, that towards the readers we each do our best, and by patience and perseverance conquer repellent manners, thaw the icy reserve of diffidence, and penetrate the more difficult to deal with, assumption of superior knowledge—a reasonable discount always being allowed by us for biliousness, dyspepsia, and similar physical sources of crossness on the part of readers.

But some of the *books* are also repellent, diffident, and emptily assuming in their titles, and we, who want every line in our catalogues to be an active working line, carrying something and leading somewhere, with movement and traffic enough to satisfy a railway manager, and even every word to have its use, feel that we must take some liberties with these titles and send them to school. We don't want to take away their names like convicts, though we do number them. We are alive to the author's natural objection, "What ! can we not name our own children ?" though the country parson used sometimes to have to protest against christening the juvenile bucolics Nebuchadnezzar and Beelzebub, for all that they are good old Scripture names.

But the imperative demands of cheapness in our catalogues, and consequently of condensation in our entries, taken together with the fact that our readers don't know the books, and want something more explanatory than their names, impel us to the course I am about to recommend.

(I have spoken a good deal in the plural, and it may be that I ought not, for perhaps I stand more alone than I think; but following Mr. Tony Weller's counsel, I have preferred to "spell it with a We, Samivel, spell it with a We," so please to bear with me.)

For an example, the title "A Plea for Liberty" conveys no idea to the reader who hasn't heard of it, whether it is on Church disestablishment, the slave trade, local option in liquor trade, dissolution of the fetters of matrimony, or what not; but if we go on to say in our catalogue entry, "Animadversions on Free Public Libraries, the Post Office, and all other useful institutions," the reader will then understand what it is about, and *perhaps* may say, "Ah, that's what I've been thinking all along; I wonder if the writers have said it as well as I could," and takes the book; or perhaps he may say, "Here's a lot of people have been making asses of themselves, let us see what they have got to say." In either case the book is read. I don't find fault with *shortness* of titles; some of the shortest may be perfectly expressive. "Ecce Homo" and "Lux Mundi" give their subjects in the two words constituting their title, quite sufficiently for all they are in a dead language; it is inexpressiveness that I complain of. Even the face of Mephistopheles is more tolerable than that of a turnip-headed scarecrow. How much more satisfying is the expressive glance from the black, brown, or blue eyes of Latin, Greek, Saxon or Irish beauty. All this applies to title pages as well as to faces. In passing to the second half of my subject, I do not desert my first. For specimens of good, terse, explicit and expressive titles I can do no better than call your attention to the librarian-made ones which are attached to the subject-group volumes of selected magazine articles, which must be well known to most of my hearers, as adopted and brought to perfection, if not invented, by Mr. Taylor, of Bristol—specimens of which, by his kind assistance, I am able to bring before you.

When the Association thought of going to Bristol for this annual meeting, one of the specially interesting sights that I looked forward to seeing there was the library of volumes of magazine articles gathered and bound according to their subjects by Mr. Taylor—a plan converting the barren desert of the magazine shelves into a garden of living, growing, and actively interesting books containing the latest and most ably put dicta of the greatest minds on the topics, not only of the day, but of

the morrow. This is much, but not too much to say of the importance of magazine and review articles.

The name of Mr. Andrew Carnegie is not an unrespected one in this assembly, and in his *American Four-in-hand in Britain* he says (p. 25), speaking of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain: "Even in matters of national importance, debates are no longer what they were. The questions have already been threshed out in the Reviews, those coming forums of discussion, and all that can be said, already said by writers on both sides of the question, who know its bearings much better than the leaders of party. When the *Fortnightly*, or the *Nineteenth Century* gets through with a subject, the Prime Minister only rises to sum up the result, at which the Morleys, the Rogerses, the Spencers, and Huxleys, the Giffens, and Howards, have previously arrived. The brains of a country will be found where the real work is to do. The House of Lords registers the decrees of the House of Commons, and the House of Commons is soon to register the decrees of the monthlies."

Mr. Poole—another voice across the Atlantic, from the land where, pre-eminently in library matters, helpfulness, activity, energy, and efficiency grow in congenial soil—recognises the usefulness of the magazine articles by his admirable index to them. And yet the experience of most of us must have told us that the best key is not so good an invitation as an open door, and therefore I think the collected subject volumes have yet a reason for their existence, even where Poole is on the shelves.

It is a common experience for me to be appealed to by readers, whose position in the state is of no mean importance, for magazine articles that they have noticed or had recommended to them, too recent to appear in Poole, the exact date uncertain, the particular review doubtful; and yet wishing to be a good citizen, no less than a good librarian, I am stirred to seek these articles, while the precious minutes fly by, and it weighs upon me as I pursue my search what a prodigious quantity of chaff I have to wade through to get at the grain. And yet, it may be, the next enquiry alters things, and some of that chaff is now the grain I seek, while what was grain is now chaff in the new quest. Under Mr. Taylor's plan, the difficulties disappear. Now, not only the one article but a number of other kindred ones are at hand, in a volume which Mr. Chivers' ingenuity has made like a board of company directors, "with power to add to their number," and an all-round view of the subject, which the reader little expected, is put within his reach.

But other advantages of this plan appear. These magazine volumes, more than anything else in the library, would get coloured with the individuality of the librarian. Fully conceding that our public librarians are, as a rule, good all-round men, and that if this plan were generally adopted, most things of enduring value in every department would be represented, it would be impossible but that individuality should show itself. It could not be otherwise than that antiquarian lore should be noticeably well represented under Mr. Taylor, or Natural Science under Mr. Ogle, County History under our President, or the welfare of the Working Classes under Mr. Humphery.

And that individuality is a thing that I, for one, strongly approve of. I think it, more than anything, tends to progress and improvement. People talk of a church of Scott's, or Pearson's style of design. Why not a library of Briscoe's or Inkster's style of selection. Good in itself, good for its purpose, good for its special circumstances, and good in its librarian's particular and special way. Why should not a Guide to London, of some not very remote future date, say, "London has fifty Free Public Libraries, one in every parish, all well stocked and selected, amongst which particularly good topographical literature is to be found in this, musical literature in that, and mechanical literature in the other"? One thing I have to ask, that in carrying out the second part of my subject, the gathering up of magazine articles into subject volumes, you don't offend under the first count, and name them imperfectly or misleadingly. Here is a new field for rising talent, and the gate open. As a rule, people don't have opportunities of giving a name to a book very often, unless they be popular novelists, and then a book of proverbs or mottoes will furnish enough for several life-times; but here is a chance of naming a lot of books. See that ye do it well, and make the title short, sharp, and descriptive.

I am aware that I have run the risk of having it said that my paper is one-fourth aggression and three-fourths digression; but if my aggression leads but one sinful author to see the error of his ways, and my digression leads you to note, approve, and imitate Mr. Taylor's excellent plan, which calls forth orderly volumes of readable subject matter out of the chaos of little-read back magazines, creating a literature where as yet none exists, bringing together separated but kindred articles shedding mutual light on a subject, making books which people want to read (more useful work than making those which authors want to sell),

then I shall have realised my intention of contributing to the advance of Practical Librarianship.

I deem that its advance is best to be secured by each bringing his peculiar subject to the fount of common wisdom assembled on these occasions. The word common being here, as always by me, used as a title of honour, as the loyal speak of our common Queen, as churchmen value the book of Common Prayer, as patriots prize our common land, and we our common calling, which here and now brings us together.

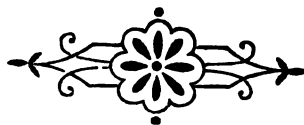
I will now proceed to explain the specimen volumes here exhibited.

There are sixteen volumes here, ten of which are from the Bristol Free Public Libraries, and six of them have been bound by Mr. Cedric Chivers of Bath, for me. Mr. Taylor's selections are on Foreign Folk-song, Dryden criticisms, Pre-historic days, Norse literature, Thomas Becket, Lord Beaconsfield's literary works, Thomas Moore, Statesmen, Law and Government, Outdoor Sports. He says, "I have compiled about 1,000 volumes of such selections, and find them of constant service in our libraries. My assistants tell me that the usefulness of the volumes can hardly be overstated, so far as the frequent demand for them justifies the inference." Mr. Haggerston, of Newcastle, has, I am told, also adopted this plan. You will see that some of those volumes of Mr. Taylor's selections cover a period of fifty years. He has bound up together pamphlets and newspaper articles, but the newspapers have had to be folded up to come within the size of the book, and from my experience of the way readers generally fold anything up after they have done with it—maps particularly, which are usually opened much like the way a serviette is shaken out before dinner, and left much like a serviette after it has been used—I am surprised to see these folded newspaper cuttings look so well. In my volume *Books, their making, keeping, selling, and illustrating*, you will see that in order to bring together the old and the new, I have followed an article on the Plantin Moretus Press at Antwerp, with the *Daily Graphic* anniversary account of its processes; but I got two copies of the paper, cut up the columns and pieced them together to the size of the page, so avoiding any folding up; and in the volume on *Book Producers* the account of the Murray family from the *Publishers' Circular* is dealt with in the same way. I point out the difference of method in this as a matter of practical detail worth your notice. There is another such feature to call your attention to. It may have

chanced to you, in a crowded assembly, to experience some difficulty with the train of the lady preceding you, and from the toes of the gentleman behind. This is the sort of difficulty you must encounter with these magazine articles. Articles *will* finish on the right hand page. Thus you have the tail of the previous article, and the beginning of the one following (sure to be most incongruous with your own) on hand. Mr. Taylor has not worried himself about this, and left them as they were; but I have felt uncomfortable about it, like one does at a restaurant when the remains of past and coming meals are too much in evidence, and so I have tried to get portraits and other plates and extracts to cover these. This is often an additional attraction, as well as getting over the difficulty.

A volume of selected extracts from the library journals of the Old and New Worlds, with portraits of our brethren of the craft, would be very attractive. The difference in sizes is, I think, perfectly met by Mr. Chivers in his binding, and I should here explain, that in detaching my extracts, some of them from an older, unclassified volume, and mounting them, I have done a deal of mischief to them, which Mr. Chivers has done his best to counteract. In fact, I think he should be very very much indebted to me for giving him an opportunity of showing his ingenuity in that way. You will see in my volumes a provision of a kind of "Power to add to their number" also, and I have included some autograph letters in my Ruskin volume, just to enliven the subject. I am warned by a friend that there is a hydrant up at the top of the hall, which *might* be used in cases of too prolonged orations, and as hose of that kind are not the Nottingham manufactures I wish to make acquaintance with, I will close.

JOSEPH GILBURT.



A Bibliography of Bookbinding.

A CLASSIFIED list of books and papers relating to a subject has always seemed to me a preliminary step to its study. I have therefore endeavoured to do for binding what has not previously been done even in France, where alone it may be said to possess a literature.

But if a subject catalogue is to be of real use to the student and facilitate study it must be exhaustive as far as it goes—that is to say, it should in my opinion give such information as may enable him to judge of the scope of every work described in it, as well as guide him in its purchase. For this reason I have in the following list given the number of plates, pages and editions, besides the usual information.

The list does not pretend to be a complete one in certain departments, chiefly in French and German dictionary and magazine articles. There are so many serial publications that information concerning them could only be obtained by prolonged search in the chief continental libraries. There must also be statutes and notices relating to the craft in its early times which are yet to be discovered.

In other directions I believe the list to be fairly complete, but what I most desire in its publication is that it should stimulate those interested in binding at home and abroad to note anything that has escaped my search and to communicate it to me, in order that later on the list may be issued in a form still more exhaustive. There may be many things, such as early manuals and craft rules, hidden away in provincial libraries which librarians may come across from time to time, and which may possess much valuable information concerning early English binding.

With regard to the arrangement adopted in this list, it is simply alphabetical, any other being liable to cross classifications. Its limitations may be gathered from its omissions. I have not included in it :—

- (a.) Books in the classical languages relating to the libraries of the ancients.

(b.) Catalogues of ancient or modern libraries, except when illustrated or prefaced by some account of binding.

(c.) Catalogues of sales or dealers' catalogues, except when illustrated.

Any information given to me will be gratefully received and carefully set aside for future use.

S. T. PRIDEAUX.

37, *Norfolk Square, London, W.*

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- Edmunds (W. H.) *Bookbinding.* See Exhibitions. Reports of Artizans, &c.
- Edwards (Edward). *Memoirs of Libraries.* 2 vols. London and Leipzig, 1859. 8vo. Vol. 2 (pp. 959-987) contains an historical account of Bookbinding, with 6 Plates.

- Elton (Charles Isaac). A Catalogue of a portion of the Library of Charles Isaac Elton and Mary Augusta Elton. Pp. 222. 28 Plates. London, 1891. 8vo.
- Encyclopædias, &c. For Articles on Bookbinding, *see* American Cyclopædia—Blackie's Modern Cyclopædia—Bouillet (N.). Dictionnaire Universel des Sciences . . . et des Arts—Encyclopædia Metropolitana—Globe Encyclopædia—Johnson. Universal Cyclopædia—National Encyclopædia—Popular Encyclopædia—Rees. Encyclopædia or Universal Dictionary.
- Eschebach (August). Aus der Buchbinderwerkstatt. Gedichte. Pp. 102. Berlin, 1861. 16mo.
- Eschebach (A.). Gebrauchs-Anweisung zur einer neuen praktischen Blattvergoldkunst. 11 Auflage. Berlin, 1861. 16mo.
- Établissement d'une Bibliothèque. Paris, 1877. 12mo.

EXHIBITIONS ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY.

- Rapport du jury central sur les produits de l'industrie française à l'exposition de 1834, par le Baron Ch. Dupin. 3 vols. in 8vo. Paris, Imprimerie Royale, 1836.
- Rapport du jury central. Exposition des produits de l'industrie française, 1839. 3 vols. in 8vo. Paris, 1839.
- Rapport du jury central. Exposition des produits de l'industrie française, 1844. 3 vols. 8vo.
- Rapport du jury central sur les produits de l'agriculture et de l'industrie exposés en 1849. 3 vols. Paris, 1850. 8vo.
- Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations, 1851. Reports of the Juries. Vol. 2. Pp. 928-936. London, 1852. Bookbinding.
- Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations. Official Descriptive Catalogue. Vol. 2. Pp. 536-552. London, 1851.
- Exposition universelle de 1855. Rapports du jury mixte international. 2 tom. Pp. 1290-1303. Paris, 1856. Reliure, p. 341. Machines pour la reliure.
- International Exhibition, 1862. Reports of the Juries. London, 1863. Class 38. Section D. Bookbinding.
- Rapports du jury international sur l'exposition de Londres, 1862, publiés par Michel Chevalier. 6 vols. Paris, 1862. 8vo.
- Rapport des ouvriers relieurs délégués, à l'exposition universelle de Londres en 1862. Pp. 36. Paris, 1863. 8vo.
- Exposition de 1867. Délégation des ouvriers relieurs.
- Première Partie.* La reliure aux expositions de l'industrie (1798-1862). Pp. 278. Paris, 1868. 8vo.
- Deuxième Partie.* La reliure à l'exposition de 1867. Études comparatives de la reliure ancienne et modern. Pp. 223. 9 Plates. Photogravure. Paris, 1869-75. 8vo.
- Rapport de la commission supérieure à l'exposition universelle de Vienne, 1873 (section française). 5 tom. Paris, 1875. 8vo.
- Rapport de la délégation ouvrière française à l'exposition universelle de Vienne, 1873. Relieurs. Paris, 1874. 8vo.
- Rapport sur l'imprimerie et la Librairie (et la reliure) à l'exposition internationale de Philadelphie, 1876, par René Fourret. Paris, 1877. 4to.

(To be continued.)

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge.

ABERDEEN PUBLIC LIBRARY.—It is expected that the new building will be finished and ready for occupation early in July. In response to an invitation from the library committee, Mr. Andrew Carnegie has consented to perform the opening ceremony, regarding it as a duty which he was not at liberty to decline, and affirming that "no act could be more congenial, for the opening of a new library in a community seems one of the most encouraging symptoms of true progress."

In recognition of his eminence as a thinker and writer, as well as of the fact that he successfully moved the adoption of the Public Libraries Act in Aberdeen, a movement has been started to procure a bust in marble of Professor Bain, for presentation to the public library there. The project has been taken up so heartily by Dr. Bain's admirers in Aberdeen, and throughout the country, that its success is already insured, and the commission for the bust has been given to a young Aberdeen sculptor of rising reputation, now settled in London. It is hoped by some who have taken a leading part in connection with the proposed gift that it will be but the first of its kind destined to grace and dignify the new public library.

ALTRINCHAM.—Arrangements for the transfer of the Literary Institution from the trustees to the Altrincham Local Board for a Free Library are now completed, and at a meeting of the board on Jan. 9 an agreement was approved, subject to the formal sanction of the trustees and to the terms of the Technical Instruction Act, which has been adopted.

BELFAST.—The committee of the Belfast Free Public Library have appointed Mr. J. B. Goldsbrough sub-librarian, in succession to Mr. G. J. Smith, who leaves to undertake the librarianship of the Belfast Library, an older institution in the same city, dating from the last century. Mr. Goldsbrough served his apprenticeship in the Newcastle Public Library.

BIRMINGHAM.—The Free Libraries committee have entered into an arrangement to receive and keep separate the interesting collection of books known as the "Thomas Hall Library," at King's Norton. The building in which these books have been hitherto kept is required for

other purposes ; and the committee believe that the important objects of their preservation and greater accessibility will be so much promoted by their being placed in the care of the city, that the term of fifteen years, for which the present arrangement is made, will certainly be extended. Mr. W. Salt Brasington, F.S.A., described this library, and showed some of the books at the Birmingham meeting of the L.A.U.K.

BRADFORD, YORKS.—The 800 volumes forming the library of the Bradford branch of the Teachers' Guild have been housed in the reference room at the Free Library.

BROMLEY.—A movement is on foot to get the Public Libraries Acts adopted.

CARDIFF.—The question which was raised at the meeting of the Cardiff Free Library committee, as to the liability of such authorities to pay Income Tax under Schedule D as well as under Schedule A, is one the solution of which will be received with satisfaction by similar bodies throughout the kingdom. It appears that the committee had a claim made against them, although they had already paid under the first schedule. The matter was laid before Sir Edward Reed, M.P., who put a question thereon to the Chancellor of the Exchequer so far back as May last. Mr. Goschen replied that a test case involving the point was, "he understood," about to be decided in the law courts, and any answer on his part would, therefore, be premature. Since then search has been made for the case in question by the assessors of the Commissioners of Income-tax, but nothing has been seen or heard of it, and now the point is referred back to Sir Edward Reed, with the hope that he may be able to enlighten the committee in reference to this rather nebulous case. It is essential that the liability of Free Libraries in matters of the kind should be distinctly ascertained, for already their resources are strained to the fullest possible extent, and there is certainly nothing to throw away upon taxes that may possibly in the end be found to have been overpaid.

CARNARVON.—An effort is being made to collect a fund which will enable the committee to buy additional books, and lend out books for home reading. It is felt that the library has hitherto scarcely done half its work.

COLCHESTER.—On October 2nd, the result of the poll of the ratepayers on the Public Library question was announced:—For, 1,911 ; against, 1,294. Majority in favour of the adoption of the Acts, 617.

DUBLIN.—The new National Library in Kildare Street has developed a great taste for reading among the Dublin public. The attendance has vastly increased, and the attentive officials are at times unable to respond to the calls upon them. Visitors to Dublin would do well to make a point of seeing this new library, where all the latest improvements in library organisation have been adopted. A good catalogue of its immense resources is now the only desideratum. But for this we must wait upon the goodwill and disposition of the Lords of the Treasury. It would be impossible for the present overworked staff to produce it.

EDINBURGH.—At a meeting of the Students' Representative Council of Edinburgh University, some discussion took place on a motion by Mr. T. Lorimer Beveridge, "that the committee of the Edinburgh Public Library be approached with a view to allowing students resident

outside of Edinburgh, but otherwise qualified, to enjoy all the privileges of the Library." One member, who opposed the motion, said the way that the students of the University treated the Library was simply disgraceful. He said he had been in the Public Library several times, and he never yet saw a student in the building. They had their University Library, and he suggested that members should pay their £1 and get books out of their own library. Mr. Cattenach, one of the presidents, in supporting the motion, said it was absurd that a man in employment in a shop and living out at Dalkeith should be at liberty to take books out of the Free Library, while a student who came out of the same place and worked just as hard should not have that liberty. He was sure it was only a thing to be brought before the notice of the committee, and it would be put right. On a division, the motion was carried.

EDMONTON.—The result of the voting at Edmonton on the Public Libraries question was as follows :—For, 1,050 ; against, 295. Majority in favour, 755.

FESTINIOG.—The advisability of adopting the Public Library Acts has been mooted.

GAINSBOROUGH.—The result of the polling taken on December 23rd was as follows :—Against the adoption of the Act, 1,057 ; in favour, 211. Majority against, 846. Invalid votes, 284 ; papers not filled up, 529.

GLASGOW : BAILLIE'S INSTITUTION.—Mr. William Simpson, late of the Alloa Public Library, was recently appointed librarian of this important Glasgow library, in succession to the late Mr. E. A. Holme-Kay, who died under such sad circumstances at Nottingham, immediately after the annual conference. Mr. Simpson was originally an assistant in the Mitchell Library, and became the first librarian of the Dumbarton Public Library on its establishment ; afterwards going to Alloa as chief, where he compiled its very neat and accurate catalogue.

GLOUCESTER.—The question of adopting the Public Libraries Acts has been again revived, and an influential committee formed.

LEWES.—The Public Library question is coming to the front. Nothing more appropriate could be introduced during the Mayor's second year of office, and as there is already a building in existence—the Fitzroy Memorial Library—which is the property of the town, although used now by a body of private persons, the adoption of the Acts ought not to be a matter of much difficulty or of expense.

LEYTON.—There was a poll in November for the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts, which were carried by a majority of 1,600. The voting was as nearly as possible three to one in favour of it.

LIVERPOOL.—A very interesting and useful catalogue of about a thousand technical books has been printed by the Free Libraries committee for circulation in Liverpool workshops, and, with the sanction of the masters, for fixing in some conspicuous position on their business premises, so that the men can readily see what books may be borrowed from the Free Libraries upon subjects of interest and importance to them in their respective trades. A similar catalogue was issued by Mr. Folkard, of Wigan, some years ago.

LONDON : BRITISH MUSEUM.—The retirement of Dr. Charles Rieu, keeper of the Oriental Manuscripts in the British Museum, after a long service of nearly fifty years, is a great loss to the national library, where

his intimate knowledge of many branches of early Semitic literature has in the past been of great service to the ever-increasing number of students of the languages of the East.

LONDON : CHELSEA.—Views of the interior of the Central Public Library building appeared in *The British Architect* of January 8th and 15th.

LONDON : FULHAM.—The course of lectures arranged in connection with the Fulham Library was inaugurated in December by Dr. J. H. Gladstone on "The Birth and Growth of Chemistry." The hall was well filled. In connection with the lectures the Commissioners have distributed freely a four-paged circular containing a view of the library, and directing attention to the various departments.

LONDON : SHOREDITCH.—The Public Library Commissioners have, out of fifty applicants, elected as their chief librarian and secretary Mr. William Charles Plant, chief librarian and secretary to the Free Public Library at Buxton, and previously librarian at Leek, in Staffordshire.

LONDON : SOUTHWARK.—The Public Libraries Acts have been adopted by a majority of 537, there being for the adoption 738, and 201 votes against. 2,212 voting papers were issued.

MANCHESTER.—The legatees of the late Sir Jos. Whitworth, Bart., have made the following offer of land adjoining the baths at Openshaw to the Corporation :—

"That the whole of the vacant land belonging to the legatees shall be made over as a free gift to the Corporation, and that upon it there shall be erected at the joint cost of the legatees and of the Corporation a building to comprise a branch free library, with such rooms and offices as may be required, a coffee tavern, billiard-room, room for chess and draughts, large room for public meetings, and, if space admits, accommodation to be let or used for the purpose of literary or scientific societies, technical or other classes, or otherwise, as circumstances may require. The legatees are willing to expend the sum of £5,000 or £6,000 to meet an equal or larger outlay on the part of the Corporation, in addition to the gift of the land (which has cost them £2,500, subject to chief rent amounting to £13 per annum)."

The architect (Mr. J. W. Beaumont) has received instructions to proceed with the plans for the building. The Committee are also contemplating the establishment of four additional reading-rooms in the crowded parts of the city.

MANCHESTER.—The Free Libraries committee of this city have arranged for a course of lectures to be given in the large hall of the Newton Heath public buildings, and admission to them will be free. The lectures are intended to be as much as possible illustrative of the books in the library of the Newton Heath Branch.

MANCHESTER : PORTICO LIBRARY.—Mr. Matthew Robinson, after thirty years of service, has resigned his office of Librarian, and the Committee purpose presenting him with some substantial testimonial of their appreciation of his merits. Mr. Hardy, assistant, has been promoted to the librarianship.

SHEFFIELD.—In November a reader at the Central Library was summoned for mutilating a bound copy of the *Sheffield Telegraph*. His advocate tried to prove that it was not a malicious act, nor a case for a penalty. The stipendiary fined the defendant £5 (the maximum penalty), with costs, and ordered him to pay the damage.

ST. HELENS.—The Mayor (Councillor E. Johnson) has recently opened a new branch library for the rapidly-extending district of Thatto Heath, on the Liverpool side of the borough. This makes the second branch library under the management of the corporation, in addition to the Central Free Library at the Town Hall, and is an evidence of the popularity of the free library movement among the working-class population of the town.

TORQUAY.—A committee has been formed at St. Mary Church to promote the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts. Mr. W. H. K. Wright, Borough Librarian of Plymouth, was recently invited to deliver a lecture on the subject, and his very practical discourse was listened to by a large and enthusiastic audience.

WALTHAMSTOW.—At a public meeting it was unanimously resolved that the Local Board be asked to take the poll of the district on the question of the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts.

WEST BROMWICH.—The Free Library committee has decided to re-open the Reference Library every day in the week until dusk, with the exception of Saturday, when it will be kept open all day. It will be remembered that the committee closed the library a few weeks ago on account of the great damage the gas was doing to the books. Extensions and additions have been contemplated for some time, but have not yet been sanctioned by the Council.

WORKINGTON.—In November the Free Library was publicly opened for the lending of books by the Mayor (Mr. T. Iredale). He gave a short history of the old Mechanics' Institute, which had served its day and generation, and was now superseded by the Free Library and Reading Room. He trusted that it would be properly appreciated and utilised by the public, and would prove a great benefit to the town. The Rev. Canon Thornley, the Rev. J. Hodgson, and Mr. J. H. Howe also gave short addresses bearing on the objects and possible results that might arise from the Institution. The number of books in the free lending library is about 1,200, and in the subscription library about 80; while there are about 400 volumes in the reference library. Over 100 books were taken out immediately after the Library was declared upon.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

The Pentateuch of Printing, with a chapter on Judges. By William Blades. With a memoir of the author, and list of his works, by Talbot B. Reed. *London: Elliot Stock, 1891, 4to, pp. xxvi., 117. Price 15s.*

Mr. Blades's name will ever be held in remembrance for his monumental work on the Life and Labours of William Caxton, a piece of pioneering without rival in the annals of bibliography. The first volume of that work appeared in 1861, and it is noteworthy that this last legacy from Mr. Blades's pen, published a year and a half after his death and just thirty years after he first made his mark as a writer on printing, should show him no less successful as a popularizer of knowledge than he had previously proved himself as an investigator. Popular histories of

printing have not been as numerous as they have been bad, for only the sands of the sea would form an adequate proportion to the carelessness and ignorance from which, with very few exceptions, they have sprung ; but of the many that have appeared it is impossible to point to any one that has given a satisfactory account of the rise and progress of the art, or has been able to avoid the quicksands (forgeries, mis-statements and perversions) with which the path of the historian is beset. Amid these dangers Mr. Blades walks with the firm yet cautious tread of a man familiar with his subject, and the twenty pages which form his chapter on the genesis of the art give the first clear and well-reasoned epitome of the subject which it has been our lot to read. To Mr. Blades the "forty-seven different books or fragments of books, printed with eight different founts of type, all Dutch in origin, all without any name, date, or place, nearly all discovered in the bindings of fifteenth-century manuscript or printed books, thirty-three of them on vellum, and four of them printed on one side only," formed an "important bibliographical fact," to which, like Dr. Hessels, he refused to shut his eyes. By the light of these fragments he interprets the straightforward statement of the Cologne Chronicler in 1499, made on the authority of Ulric Zell, that (i.) the art was discovered first of all at Mentz, in Germany, in 1440, and perfected there till 1450, when men began to print a Bible in missal type ; (ii.) that although this art was discovered at Mentz in the manner now commonly used, yet its first "prefiguration" was found in Holland, in the Donatuses which had already been printed there. If block-printed Dutch Donatuses existed it would be possible to refer this statement to them, although, as Mr. Blades remarks, since block books certainly existed in Germany, it is difficult to see why German printers should have gone to Holland to find them. But no Dutch block-printed Donatuses, or fragment of one, can be found, and on the other hand we have these fragments of nineteen different editions of early type-printed Dutch Donatuses, the imperfect execution of which marks them clearly as belonging to an earlier stage of the development of the art than the Indulgences of 1454-55, and the 36-line and 42-line Bibles. Arrived thus far, and allowing a little for the tendency towards hero-worship and the invention of picturesque detail, some further help can be derived from the story given by Junius on the authority of a "respectable bookbinder of great age but clear memory, named Cornelis," and we arrive at a state of opinion in which the *præfiguratio* of the Cologne Chronicle and the *adinventio* of the colophon of the Mentz Psalter seem to indicate very fairly the manner in which the credit of the invention of printing should be shared between Holland and Germany. Perhaps the day may come when this view may be generally accepted, but to piece it together from the mass of forgeries and irrelevant matter with which it has been obscured was no easy matter, and we have never seen it so clearly stated as now by Mr. Blades. The remaining five chapters of his book, good as they are, suffer a little from the extreme rapidity of his survey of a wide subject. We fancy, too, that in some of them it is possible to trace the hand of the editor in inaccuracies and misleading expressions which Mr. Blades himself would hardly have passed. In this we may be doing Mr. Reed an injustice, but the editor of an unfinished work is nearly certain to be credited with all that is faulty in it if he omits to pursue the right course and indicate his own additions by means of brackets or a difference of type. For his excellent list of Mr. Blades's writings and for his sympathetic memoir (in which the interest which Mr. Blades took in the Library Association and all its doings is fully set forth), we owe him hearty thanks. It is a matter of regret to us that it has been found necessary to issue this popular hand-

book at so high a price, but we hope that a corrected edition may speedily be issued in a cheaper form and find its way into the hands of every librarian.

Museum of Library Appliances.

Since the announcement was made that the Library Association had resolved to form a museum of library appliances, a considerable number of exhibits have been received and promised. These consist of various kinds of models of racks, indicators, shelf-fittings, and specimens of book-holders, pamphlet-boxes, magazine covers, files, cabinets, newspaper holders, tablets, &c., &c. There have also been received various bibliographical works, library catalogues, forms, library stationery, &c., and a large number of plans, models, and other contributions are being prepared for the collection. Librarians and others who mean to send specimens, as requested in the circular recently issued with the LIBRARY, should send everything loose, so that the various kinds of appliances can be classified. It will be esteemed a favour if all contributions be sent to Mr. BROWN, at Clerkenwell, as early as possible, in order to allow of the arrangement being set about at once. The sets of forms, &c., sent in duplicate, are being placed on one side for the American Library Association, and will be despatched whenever there is a large enough parcel.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY.

DEAR SIR,—Would you allow me a small space in which to say a word concerning the allusion, in your last number, to my part in the management of THE LIBRARY, during the first two years of its existence.

Base as are the motives of publishers, and sordid as are their aims—they are sometimes foolish enough to undertake work for the pleasure of doing it, and take their profit in the form of the gratification of keeping a pet or hobby going—incredible as this statement may seem. When this is the case one rests satisfied, and bears the ills which accompany enterprise quietly. But there comes a point at which even the publisher turns, and, finding that there is too great a counterbalance to the pleasure of running his hobby, he is compelled to part with it, as a too expensive luxury, without further hesitation. This is what has occurred in the case of THE LIBRARY. The running of the magazine for two years represents as many hundred pounds out of pocket, and this seems rather an extravagance under the circumstances. You have, Mr. Editor, my best wishes for the success of THE LIBRARY, and I have no doubt that you will make a far better publisher than

Yours faithfully,
ELLIOT STOCK.

Library Association of the United Kingdom.

The January monthly meeting of the Association was held by invitation from the Commissioners in the Chelsea Public Library on Monday, January 11th, 1892, Mr. H. R. Tedder in the chair. The report of the Committee on Size-Notation (*vide* "Monthly Notes," vol. iii., p. 130) was brought up for adoption, and, after a brief discussion, the full consideration was adjourned until those present had a further opportunity of practically testing the book-scale proposed by the Committee.

Mr. J. Henry Quinn, Librarian of the Chelsea Public Libraries, read a paper dealing with the libraries under his charge and the special features of library work in Chelsea. At the conclusion of the paper, Mr. D. H. Hodge, Chairman of the Chelsea Libraries Commissioners, in welcoming

the members to Chelsea, eulogized the work of the librarian and his opportunities in connection with education. Mr. Procter, a Commissioner, also welcomed the Association and expressed his satisfaction with the steps now being taken to secure the needed consolidation of the Libraries Acts, and hoped that efforts would be made at the right time to amend the acts with a view to giving library authorities greater powers of management.

On the motion of the Chairman, a vote of thanks was accorded to the Chelsea Commissioners for inviting the Association to Chelsea, and upon the motion of Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Burgoyne, a similar compliment was paid Mr. Quinn for his paper.

EXAMINATIONS.

THE LIBRARY for October, 1891, contained the new Examination Scheme, which explains in detail the subjects, both of the preliminary and professional examinations, and gives a list of the books recommended for the use of candidates.

The Council have now appointed a Board of Examiners, and decided that the Examinations shall be held during the first week in June, and the first week in December every year.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

Mr. Chancellor Christie; Mr. Robert Harrison, Librarian of the London Library; Mr. J. D. Mullins, Librarian of the Birmingham Public Libraries; Mr. H. R. Tedder (Treasurer); Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister (Hon. Sec.); Mr. Thomas Mason (Hon. Sec.); Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, Librarian of the Nottingham Public Libraries; Mr. F. J. Burgoyne, Librarian of the Lambeth Public Libraries; Mr. Cecil Davis, Librarian of the Wandsworth Public Library; Mr. Wm. May, Librarian of the Birkenhead Public Libraries; Mr. J. J. Ogle, Librarian of the Bootle Public Library; Mr. J. H. Quinn, Librarian of the Chelsea Public Libraries.

[It is provided that no member of the Board shall officiate in connection with an Examination at which any of his assistants, or any person with whom he is officially connected, shall submit himself for examination.]

No candidate can enter for the ordinary or professional examination until he has passed the Preliminary, or some other Public Examination, in general knowledge, of equal value.*

The Six Subjects of the Ordinary or Professional Examination may be taken two at a time on different occasions. Certificates *pro tanto* will be granted, and will be exchanged for a full certificate when all six subjects have been passed.

No fee is charged at present, but it is probable that candidates who have failed to pass will be charged a fee before they are allowed to sit again.

Candidates can be examined either in London, or in any town where there is a large public library.

NOTICE.

The next Examination will be held during the first week in June next. Candidates must send in their names to the Secretaries not later than May 2nd, and must state for what portion of the Examination they propose to enter, and where they desire to be examined.

* N.B.—Those accepted by the General Medical Council, as exempting from the Preliminary Medical Examination, are accepted by the Council of the Library Association. For List apply to the Registrar, General Medical Council, 299, Oxford Street, W.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor. Advertisements and letters on Business to the Publisher, 20, Hanover Square, W.

On the Use and Classification of a Typographical Library.*

I VENTURE to claim the indulgence which a lay member of this Association has a title to expect from his professional comrades in calling your attention to an important though often neglected branch of the librarian's education. It is sometimes useful to regard library work objectively, that is from the point of view of the users of books, instead of wholly subjectively, that is from the curator's point of view. It is too much to expect that the two points of view could be identical. It would be a poor out-look for the public library if the private reader were to be allowed to dictate the manner in which it should be ordered. And it would be sorry work for the student if he were always to be bound by the librarian's theories. But every attempt to understand one another's standpoint is of value.

The librarian now-a-days is credited with being a person of encyclopædic information, if not a universal specialist. His readers expect him to be acquainted with any subject on which they require enlightenment. Nothing is popularly supposed to be beyond his ken. In a single morning he is liable to be consulted on Chinese music, on Fortification and on Reciprocal Tariffs. Still worse, he is expected to know by intuition what it is the reader is in search of. He is entitled to all the protection this Association can afford him from unfair treatment of this sort. It is not his business to inform the general reader. His education and training must be directed to helping others to inform themselves. His general information must of necessity be wide and thorough; but the only *special* knowledge required of him is that which relates to books. In this respect his knowledge cannot be too profound or comprehensive.

Books come into his hands every day. He must know how to classify and how to catalogue them in such a manner that

* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association held at Nottingham, September, 1891.

the reader can most easily find them, and having found, use them. Bibliography is a wide term. It does not end with the mere entry of a book under its author's name or in its subject index. It must enable us to tell all the points of a book, to discriminate between one edition and another—to note the particular interest of particular copies—to tell the counterfeit from the original, and the perfect from the imperfect. The good, all-round librarian must, in short, know all about the natural history of the printed book. And this, I venture to insist, he cannot expect properly to master without a knowledge of the history and practice of the art by which books are made. More particularly does this apply to libraries into which from time to time come volumes of typographical rarity, which, only too often, for lack of typographical knowledge, are allowed to be buried away among the mass of ordinary literature, where, years later, some lucky reader may stumble upon them and achieve a discovery which should have been made by the librarian before ever the book was shelved.

A knowledge of the history of printing ought to form an essential part of the training of every librarian; and it should go deeper than that "little knowledge" which is proverbially such a dangerous thing—particularly in bibliography. The importance of this has already, it is satisfactory to note, been recognised to some extent in the examinations held under the auspices of this Association. But in other quarters it forms, I understand, no part of the qualification of a library assistant that he should know even the elements of typographical history.

Allow me, by way of illustration, to name a few test questions which any man who handles early books professionally should be able to answer without difficulty.

1. What are the *Costeriana*?
2. What books did Peter Schœffer print by himself?
3. What was the first book printed in Germany in Roman type?
4. Who printed the *Vocabularius ex quo*?
5. What is the special typographical interest attaching to the following works:—

Lascaris—Milan, 1476.

Oratio in pace nuperrima—London, 1518.

Buck's Cambridge *Greek Testament*, 1632.

The Kehl Edition of Voltaire, 1784-9.

Woolaston's *Religion of Nature*, London, 1725.

6. Name the leading authorities respecting the following presses:—Colard Mansion, the Sorbonne Press, Jenson, the Scotch Bible-printers, Baskerville, the Didots?
7. Name the chief bodies of type, in order of size.
8. Draw a diagram of a forme of 12mo., as it would lie on the press.
9. Name any masterpiece of English typography in the 17th century, and of Spanish typography in the 18th.

These are a few elementary questions taken at haphazard, which even to-day the average librarian might find it difficult to answer. The knowledge which would enable him to do so would, if it did no other good, at least help to clear his mind of some of those cherished delusions which he, in company with the amateur book-hunter, is often found apt to indulge; such delusions, for instance, as that any book printed in Black letter is rare; that any book bearing the Elzevir imprint is a treasure; that any book printed two centuries ago is an old book and therefore to be desired. One can understand delusions of this kind in the ingenuous breast of the second-hand dealer who desires to sell his books to the ingenuous amateur. But the professional bibliographer—and who shall say that the librarian or the library assistant of to-day has a right to be anything less—must, like Cæsar's wife, be above suspicion.

We owe it to two most distinguished late members of this Association that the study of bibliography has been placed on quite a different footing from that which it occupied scarcely a quarter of a century ago. Then it was the fashion to regard a book from a simply external point of view; to believe all that the author and printer said on the title page, all that Dibdin said about it in his romantic *Decameron*, all that Herbert said about it in his *Antiquities*, all that Panzer said about it in his *Annals*. Now, thanks to the example of such sturdy agnostics as Henry Bradshaw and William Blades, we dare regard a book in no such lax manner. It must tell its own story. It must be dissected like a natural history specimen. The evidence of the type, the paper, the binder, the rubricator, the pressman, must be taken first. If these confirm the conclusions of others, well and good. If not, we must believe the book rather than its historians. Speculation and conjecture, however plausible, must be disallowed as not only useless but mischievous. We must be more content to know a very little that is certainly right, than a great deal that is possibly wrong.

This sort of bibliographical knowledge is not to be mastered without careful study of the history of printing, and good use of the extensive literature already devoted to the subject. Of the extent of that literature, the extraordinary collection of our lamented friend Mr. Blades (which I am glad to think, is likely to escape the disintegrating touch of the auctioneer, and find a secure resting place somewhere within reach of English students generally) will furnish some idea. What we want is a few more collections of the same kind for the use of those whose life's work is to be devoted to the fascinating study of bibliography in its higher walks.

As a humble frequenter of such studies myself, and a collector—*longo intervallo*—of books relating to, and illustrative of, the art which preserves all the rest, I ask your permission to make a few suggestions, obvious enough many of them, as to the proper classification and use of such a library—not now so much from the point of view of the custodian as of the student, to whom classification often means, or might mean, the best indication of his line of study. I lay stress on the term “relating to and illustrative of,” because, as I conceive, the secret of successful bibliographical or typographical study is that the history and theory of printing should be illustrated at every step by the books themselves. You may spend days, for instance, in reading descriptions of the Mentz *Psalter*, but when all is done, you have only learned what somebody else thinks about it. A few hours over the book itself, even as it lies open in the case at the Museum, will teach you more of the work and methods of the Mentz Press than a wilderness of Dibbins and Van der Lindes.

(1) In classifying a Typographical Library, our first attention will naturally be devoted to what we may term the ANTECEDENTS OF PRINTING, particularly to the productions of the scribes and block-printers of the 15th century, out of whose combined labours the art of typography emerged. Under this head, works such as Sotheby's *Principia Typographica*, Heincken's *Idée Generale des Etampes*, Mr. Wm. Conway's *Woodcutters of the Netherlands*, and the admirable *facsimiles* of Wiegel, Holtrop, and Berjeau, will need to find a place. Nor can we afford to be without such valuable side lights as are afforded by works like Mr. Blades' monograph on *Signatures*, Mr. Singer's *History of Playing Cards*, or Mr. Ernest Satow's *Notes on Early Printing in Japan*. As regards the work of the scribes (whose responsibility for the invention which abolished their craft is far more direct

than is often imagined) it will be necessary, over and above the standard histories of writing and writing materials, to study some of the best specimens of the old MSS. themselves, in order to understand properly what book-making was before the advent of the omnipotent Press.

(2) Next comes the vexed question of the INVENTION OF PRINTING, on which a whole literature exists. The controversy has been narrowed down, of late, to the duel between Dr. Van der Linde and Mr. Hessels, the one championing the claims of Gutenberg of Mentz, the other of Coster of Haerlem, to rather more than the utmost limit of literary courtesy. Their works, cleared of the venom with which they are charged, will be indispensable; while others, such as Ottley, Skeen, Bernard, Lambinet, De Vinne, and many more, who deal with the question historically rather than controversially, will be found of value. In addition to these, it will be well that the library should contain the many earlier writers, whose theories and pretensions, many of them based on forgeries and fabricated evidence, the recent development of the question has rendered valueless, but which in their day ranked as authorities on the chameleon-like controversy. Many other books will come into the collector's hands which naturally fall under this head,—monographs on the inventors and their works,—stray shots from the flank of the battle, such as the festival books of the rival birthplaces of the art; historical treatises like those of Hadrian Junius and the *Cologne Chronicle*; and omnium-gatherums like that of Wolf. Specially will it be important to keep pace with the numerous scientific studies of the types and workmanship of the first printers, by which modern research is gradually clearing the way for a not distant re-opening of the whole question.

(3) After Genesis, Exodus. The literature of the SPREAD OF PRINTING is as voluminous and important as that of its Invention. Not a few of the works already included under the last head will need cross-reference into this. M. Bernard's sketch of the spread of the art through Europe is as valuable as his chapters on Gutenberg and his partners; and the same may be said of De Vinne, Holtrop, and others. Here, too, we must place books like Mr. Hawkins's useful collection of *Titles of First Books*, and, of course, our invaluable friends Hain, Panzer, and Cotton, without whom the student of early typography would be a poor man. Over and above the general works on the

subject, this department will demand careful sub-division under the names of the countries into which the art gradually travelled. Such subdivision would accommodate not only the literature of the arrival of the art in each country, but of its subsequent progress there. For instance, (3a) under HOLLAND AND THE LOW COUNTRIES, we should find not only M. Campbell's invaluable list of Dutch *incunabula* and Mr. Bradshaw's tracts, but the various accounts of the lives and presses of Plantin and the Elzevirs down to the most recent account of the "printer's paradise" at Antwerp. (3b) Under ITALY, again, we should find the lives of all her great printers, Renouard's *Annals of the Aldi*, Sardini's *Life of Jenson*, Fineschi's *Account of the Ripoli Press*, Bernardi's *Life of Bodoni*, and many others. (3c) Under FRANCE, our collection will be weak without M. Bernard's works and those of Mr. Gresswell. And by all means our collection must include M. Thierry Poux's fine atlas of French typographical monuments, and M. Philippe's equally useful account of the origin of printing in Paris. The subsequent progress of the art is treated of in the various accounts of the famous Royal French Printing Office, in the works and life of Didot, and Renouard, and a good many other works which the collector will have no difficulty in bringing into this particular corner of his net. (3d) As regards the history of printing in GREAT BRITAIN, I need only remind you of Ames and Herbert, of Blades' *Life of Caxton*, of Dickson and Edmund's *Annals of Scottish Printing*, of Nichol's *Literary Anecdotes*, and the readable, if not always trustworthy, works of Dibdin and Temperley. I wish I could point you to any exhaustive history of the Early English Press from the death of Caxton to the death of John Day. It has yet to be written. Let a place be kept for it in the hope that some one will in due time fill it. The literature of the English Press laws, headed, of course, by the Star-Chamber decrees, must also come here, as must the lives, such as they are—and they are chiefly to be found hidden away in larger works—of her famous typographers such as De Worde, Day, Tonson, Bowyer, Baskerville, Bensley, and others. The history of a few English presses—of the St. Alban's school-master, of the two University presses, and of the York press have been written; but in this respect, as in some others, the literature of English printing is lamentably deficient. (3e) As to AMERICAN printing, when we possess Isaiah Thomas, and an autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, we have pretty well all

that there exists, so far, of an historical nature relating to the early press of that great continent. There are works to be had about the origin and progress of printing in most of the other countries, which the collector will aim to secure; not omitting the interesting records, scattered here and there, of the early and often heroic achievements of the missionary presses in the East.

We have not quite done yet with this historical section. For beyond the general histories of the Exodus of printing, and the particular histories of the development of the art in each country, we must include a few other general histories of printing at large, such as are represented by Falkenstein's *History*, Hansard's *Typographia*, Karl Faulman's comprehensive treatise, Didot's essay, and many others. This department, finally, will be enriched by many fine collections of facsimiles of the masterpieces of the early printers, such as those recently issued by the State Printing Offices at Berlin and Paris. I trust that some day it may be possible to record to the credit of the British Museum a similar service rendered to the study of the typographical monuments of our own land.

(4) We turn from the historical aspect of printing to the PRACTICAL. Here we meet with a large number of necessary works. I cannot profess to mention more than a few of the most representative. Moxon's *Mechanical Exercises* must by all means be on our shelves, if we can secure a copy, to speak for the practice of the art two centuries ago. Its later practice is treated of in the old *Printers' Grammars* of Luckombe, Smith and Stower, as well as by Fournier, Hansard, Johnson and Savage. The various articles in English and Foreign Encyclopædias must be referred to, and of course we must acquire the numerous and, many of them, excellent modern hand-books issued from time to time by enlightened members of the art and craft for the use of their brethren, books of which Mr. Southward's *Practical Printing* is an admirable specimen.

(5) If the history and practice of printing is too wide a subject to be treated without the subdivision already suggested, the literature of the parent art of TYPEFOUNDING will not be found to outrun the limits of a few shelves. A good many works already included under practical printing will have to be referred across to this section. Moxon, Fournier, Luckombe, Hansard, and several of the French and German treatises and Encyclopædia articles will reappear to illustrate the practical side; while the historical has been dealt with in turn by Rowe Mores, Hansard,

and Reed. There is a great deal of stray literature on this subject which the collector will be careful not to let go past him, if he can help; such, for instance, as Jost Ammon's *Trade Book*, the rare *Champfleur* of Geofroy Tory and Thiboust's quaint Latin poem on the *Excellency of Typography*; nor will he omit to enrich himself by such useful works as Theo. De Vinne's *Historic Printing Types*.

In connection with typefounding, a collection of TYPE-FOUNDERS' SPECIMEN BOOKS, arranged chronologically according to countries, will, perhaps, furnish a more useful history of the art than any that could be written. I have not time now to dwell on this. The ordinary collector would hardly have the patience to possess himself of works of this kind with the diffuseness of a specialist; but he will do well to secure any that come in his way, and study and compare them. He may find it difficult, for instance, to get hold of the Nuremberg founder's specimen of 1616, or that of the Roman Propaganda of 1628. But as soon as he reaches the 18th century specimens will be more frequent; while as soon as he enters the 19th he will be embarrassed by the number to select from. He will be able to form a fair idea of the state of the typefounder's art in the 18th century, if he content himself with Caslon's sheet of 1737 and his grandson's book of 1785, with Fry's specimen of the same date, Enschede's Haarlem specimen of 1768, and Fournier's *Manuel Typographique* of 1764. His collection for the 19th century must be wider and more progressive. He must follow up the English founders to modern days; and as for foreign type founding, he must aim for Bodoni's magnificent *Manuale Tipografico* of 1818, the specimens of the State printing houses of Paris, Berlin and Vienna, some of the sheets of the Didots and Derriey and a few early American specimens. After that he may help himself at large to the countless and often sumptuous volumes which bear testimony to the rapid progress of the art in recent days on this and the other side of the Atlantic.

(6) Leaving typefounding, the typographical collector will find it useful to assign a shelf to the other arts allied to, and auxiliary to, printing; particularly to ENGRAVING, of which many valuable treatises exist. Those of Heinecken, Jackson, and Ottley, are among the most useful. He will naturally not omit some specimens of the work of the early printer-engravers themselves, who understood so much better than their latter-day disciples the kinship of woodcut to the printed text. Should

he fail in this, he will find not a few admirable works and series of *facsimiles* which will enable him to follow up the study of that interesting, but not always loyally observed, relationship.

Standard works are also to be found on PAPER and BOOK-BINDING, while the romantic story of the invention of STEREOTYPE, as told by Ged, Hodgson, and Paroy, and illustrated by the precious Sallust of 1739 and some of the early essays of the French and English stereotypers at the beginning of the present century, will require careful attention.

A collection of works relating to printing must, of necessity, be supplemented by many special bibliographies and catalogues of printed works. Some of these have already been indicated. But, from the mere point of view of typographical study, it will be essential to have within reach such works as Adam Clarke's *Bibliographical Dictionary*, Dibdin's and Horne's *Guides to the Rare Classics*, the standard bibliographies of the English Bible (whose typographical history is the history of English printing in epitome) and others. In addition to these, the critical catalogues of Renouard and other great librarians, the British Museum list of *Early English Books to 1640*, Mr. Quaritch's lists of *Typographical Monuments*, the catalogues of collections such as the recently dispersed Hoe library—all these will come in for constant reference; while our Bigmore and Wyman's *Bibliography of Printing* (a work so well begun, but alas! so inadequately finished) will demand a specially accessible position on our shelves. But as to books of this class, it is not for me to venture to advise professional librarians.

I come, in conclusion, to books illustrative of the art of which the literature already sketched so widely treats.

The man who collects books for the sake of their typographical interest must classify them, if they are to be of any service to him, typographically. He prizes his *St. Augustine* not for the sake of its saintly author, but for the sake of the great name on its colophon. His *Ciceros* do not lie side by side on his shelves, for one belongs to Germany, another to Rome, and another to Venice; and he looks for them not under the name of the great orator, but under those of Fust, and Sweynheim and Jenson. His case is that which the book-collector's poet so neatly describes:—

The types, not sense, his fancy takes,
He Virgil loves for Aldus' sake;
And Quarles and Bunyan would revere
If printed by old Elzevir.

Unless his purse be equal to his ardour he will probably find the simple classification of press or date sufficient for his *incunabula*; but having emerged from the sacred territory of the "fifteeners," he will be confronted with a difficulty as to how best to arrange his specimens of printing so as to be most easily available for his study. My own practice may not be a very scientific one, but it has served me well—namely, to classify by centuries according to the type. In the sixteenth century, for instance, the Polyglots are banded into one company, books in Black letter into another, in Roman type into another, in Italic into another, in Greek into another, and in Hebrew into another, and so on. Works in which appear a mixture of characters are classified under the heads of both; or in the case, let us say, of a specimen of a primitive form of Greek or Hebrew interspersed in a body of ordinary and not specially interesting text, the preference is given to the character whose study the volume will be chiefly required to illustrate.

A similar classification would be carried on in the works of succeeding centuries; and, of course, the products of the same press, under each head, would naturally fall together. As the decades passed we should witness many interesting changes of typographical manners and customs. The Black letters will gradually die out: the Roman will grow dominant; the Italic will shrink from a text type into a mere auxiliary to the Roman; new characters, such as Irish and Anglo-Saxon, will demand admission into our classification.

The collector who buys with typographical intent, will naturally confine his attention to works which are either masterpieces of the art, or which, for some reason or other, possess a typographical interest. He will try to secure good representative specimens of the early presses, books illustrative of the fallibility of the printer as well as of his merit, books with a personal history, books valuable by reason of the badness of their workmanship—in short, typographical curiosities of all sorts. The usefulness of such a classification as I suggest is that at any time the development of a certain form of type may be traced. Thus we may follow down the history of the Greek character, from the rugged makeshift letters in the Mentz Cicero, on to the fine Italian models of the late fifteenth century, from them to the still finer fashion of the Parisian Stephani, and so gradually onward through one style after another and one lapse after another, till it attained its present uninteresting, conven-

tional form. I admit that if such a collection of representative printed works became at all extensive, the sub-classification according to presses, already suggested, would need to be elaborated. But I should myself be inclined to make this secondary to the classification according to type.

In conclusion, I must ask you not to suppose that in attempting to deal with the arrangement of a typographical library I have aimed to do more than indicate how such a library might be made most available for the use of the student. The works I have named do not pretend to be an exhaustive, or, indeed, anything more than a skeleton list of the best works in each department. Hitherto, I believe, the literature of printing has not been systematically classified, and in consequence has been but imperfectly used. I should be glad if anything I have said should be the means of calling attention first of all to the importance of the study to the librarian's calling, and secondly to the help which the student might receive from a proper and careful classification of the materials with which he will be called upon to deal.

CLASSIFICATION.

- A. The Antecedents of Printing.
- B. The Invention of Printing.
- C. The Spread of Printing generally.
 - a. Holland and the Netherlands.
 - b. Germany.
 - c. Italy.
 - d. France.
 - e. Great Britain.
 - &c.
- D. The General History of Printing.
- E. Practical Printing.
- G. Typefounding.
 - a. Type specimen books.
- H. Engraving.
- I. Paper and Binding.
- J. Stereotype.
- K. Special Bibliographies of Printing and early printed books.
- L. Specimens of Fifteenth Century presses chronologically arranged.

- M. Specimens of Sixteenth Century presses, arranged according to type.
- a.* Polyglot.
 - b.* Black letter.
 - c.* Roman type.
 - d.* Italic „
 - e.* Greek „
 - f.* Hebrew „
 - &c.
- N. Specimens of Seventeenth Century presses :—
- a. b. c. d. e. f. &c.*, as above.
- O. Specimens of Eighteenth Century presses.
- a. b. c. d. e. f. &c.*, as above.
- P. Specimens of Nineteenth Century presses.
- a. b. c. d. e. f. &c.*, as above.
- Q. Various.

TALBOT B. REED.



The Library of the Nottingham Mechanics' Institution.*

IN January, 1845, thanks to the munificence of wealthy friends, and to the unstinted devotion of time and energy by all who shared the burden of management, the members of the Nottingham Mechanics' Institution found themselves the possessors of a substantial block of buildings, well suited to the objects of the institution, with the largest hall in the town, and a library of 3,000 volumes. In its new home the institution was open from 8.30 until 10 in the morning, from 12 till 2 in the afternoon, and from 4 till 10 in the evening. Until 1848 the provision made for the members in the way of newspapers and magazines had been limited to 30 periodicals placed in the library. No newsroom existed. The desire for accommodation of this description had obtained strong expression for several years, and in this year it was found practicable to comply with this wish by establishing a newsroom upon the premises, and subject to the management of the committee, but with separate membership and an additional subscription of 1s. 6d. per quarter. In the first year of its existence about 100 members became subscribers, many of whom gave increased subscriptions in order to maintain it. In 1852 the number of members again reached 1,000. In the same year the institution, in common with many other provincial institutes, entered into union with the Society of Arts. The year 1857 brought a radical change in the library department. A general desire had been expressed by the members that newspapers and other periodicals should be placed in the reading-room, and that the extra subscription for the newspaper-room should be abolished. The committee at length saw their way to making the desired change, and in the above year the amalgamation of the library, reading-room, and newspaper-room was effected, and the joint room was thrown open from 10 in the morning till 10 at night. The alteration was greatly appreciated by the members, although the funds did not permit the provision of more than 40 newspapers and magazines. Until the year 1863 the library had been available only from 12 to 2, and from 4 till 10, but in 1863, by making certain changes in the official staff, the committee were able to keep the library open during the whole day—a privilege which was greatly appreciated, and was followed by an immediate increase in the number of members of the institution. In 1865 a new librarian was appointed at a salary of £65 per annum. It may be a sign of the times that during the present year this gentleman has retired on a pension equal to the salary he was appointed at. In this season of prosperity, there befel the institution a misfortune which temporarily paralysed its working, and

* Read before the Annual Meeting of the Library Association held at Nottingham, September, 1891.

threatened to prove of lasting injury. On March 14th, 1867, the building was destroyed by a fire which, it is believed, originated in one of the corridors where the woodwork seems to have caught fire from a gas that had been left burning. The disaster might not have been so serious had not much delay occurred in getting the fire engine to work, owing to the difficulty experienced in finding the water plug amongst the frozen snow and ice which covered the ground. The greater part of the library, the specimens in the museum, and some articles of furniture were saved, but the building itself was reduced to ruins. Onerous as were the duties cast upon the committee by the necessity for rebuilding, the selection of plans, and the financial difficulty, the internal affairs of the institution were not neglected. A fortnight after the fire, rooms in Lincoln Street were engaged for the temporary accommodation of the members, and there, until the return of the institution to its own premises, the work of the library and reading-room was carried on as completely as the available space would allow. The committee speedily took in hand the work of reinstating the institution premises, and then the great problem of how to obtain the requisite funds presented itself for solution. The sum of £3,950 was received from the offices in which the building was insured, and with a portion of this amount the existing mortgages for £2,200 were redeemed. Within two months of the fire the committee had resolved to advertise a competition for designs for a new building, to include a large hall for the accommodation of 1,500 persons, a lecture hall, library, reading-room, and class-rooms; the cost not to exceed £8,000. With the recollection of the former generosity of the public in their minds, the committee determined to appeal again to their fellow townsmen for financial assistance, and most liberally was the appeal responded to, £2,580 being contributed. The present large hall is nearly double the size of that which was destroyed. It was opened on January 19th, 1869, when two concerts, one in the morning and the other in the evening, were given in celebration of the event. At the end of 1868 there were 1,452 members on the books. The year 1870 is chiefly remarkable for the institution of the Paget Free Memberships. Mr. C. Paget (at one time M.P. for Nottingham), a vice-president and a constant benefactor of the institution, devised a happy scheme for bringing young persons under the influence of the Mechanics' Institution. With this end in view, Mr. Paget generously offered £20, which was to be applied by the committee in the payment of the entrance fees and subscriptions of young persons. Mr. Paget made his gift annually until his lamented death, since which event it has been continued by Mr. Joseph Paget, J.P., who succeeded his father as vice-president. Of late years, young women, as well as young men, have been recipients of these free memberships. The Paget gift has been the means of introducing several hundreds of young people into the institution, and has proved of the greatest service in extending its influence amongst the artisan classes. It is satisfactory to know that the great majority of the recipients remain members permanently. In 1876, the arduous task of examining the books on the library shelves, and eliminating all volumes which were out of date or incomplete, was carried out. In this year the committee received from the trustees of the extinct Artisans' Library, whose property had been sold to the Corporation, the sum of £240, which it was stipulated should be expended in the advancement of science, or in the purchase of books of reference. The latter mode of utilising the gift was adopted, and, in 1877, a portion of the library was partitioned off to form a reference department. A new catalogue of the 13,000 volumes in the library was compiled by Mr. J. T. Radford, the assistant librarian, in this year, and was shortly afterwards published. The urgent necessity of providing further accom-

modation for the members induced the committee to erect a new reading-room on the land adjoining the large hall, and in March, 1884, the present news-room was opened to the members. In 1887 the members celebrated their fiftieth anniversary of the institution, when a banquet, two balls, and a conversazione were held. The whole of the building was utilised for the conversazione. Its most interesting feature was an exhibition of local literature, the first ever held in Nottingham. It proved so successful that it was kept open three days, and was visited by a large number of persons. But the feature by which the jubilee was best commemorated was the publication of the history of the institution for free distribution to the members. The work of compilation was undertaken by four members of the committee, and it is to this work we are indebted for the earlier details of this paper. During this year the committee decided on the formation of a Library of Local Literature; a collection of books written on the history and topography of the district, of plans, maps, views, and portraits, of books written by Nottinghamshire men (as Kirke White, Byron, Bailey, the Howitt family, and many others), and of fugitive pieces, as pamphlets, flysheets, reports, &c.; 342 books were purchased in 1887, and in 1888 the collection was increased by over 700 volumes. In 1889 a library of music for circulation was formed, and the 82 volumes in that branch circulated no less than 932 times in seven months. In 1890 the collection had increased to 168 volumes, and the issues to 2,177. In this year, too, the "bespoke system" became very popular. Members have the privilege of proposing to the committee the purchase of new books, and if such books are purchased the members proposing the same have first loan of them, followed in turn by those members who register their names in a book provided for the purpose, and if a member provides a postcard he is informed by post that the book he requires is waiting for him. The chief work of the present year has been the provision of a librarian's workroom, the removal of the reference department to a room where greater quiet is obtained, and the utilisation of the old reference department for general library purposes. From the figures for 1889 and 1890, it will be seen that the circulation of "Tales and Fiction" was nearly 76 per cent. of the whole. For 30 years nothing troubled the committee more than the large circulation of this class. In 1845 the proportion was only 20 per cent., in 1850 it had risen to over 50 per cent., and continued so until 1854, when the committee, in an apologetic tone, attributed the large circulation to the young members, to whom they recommended a more general use of the elementary books of history, geography, and science. There were then 1,305 volumes of fiction in the library. During the succeeding year only 30 new works were added to this class, and the committee jubilantly reported a decrease of over 1,000 issues. In 1856 and 1857 the number of books was not increased and the issues decreased 4,000, and the members were fewer in number. But in 1858 the circulation went up 3,000, and was nearly 50 per cent. of all issues. This the committee accounted for by supposing that the members had perforce taken to fiction because they had read all the other books in the library. From 1858 to 1862 the circulation averaged about 45 per cent., but in 1863 it was only 30 per cent., in the following year it had bounded up to 55 per cent., and so continued during 1864, 1865, and 1866. For 1867 and 1868 no figures are given, these being the years of rebuilding and reorganisation, but in 1869 and 1870 the issues of fiction were 60 per cent. In 1871 the committee considered the high circulation of novels required explanation, and in 1872, when the percentage was the same, we are most gravely told that a large proportion of these works were taken out for the use of the junior portions of members' families, to whom technical and scientific works would be of

no use. But after this, the tilt at the novel was over. The committee doubted the use of the table showing the issues of various classes of books. They thought it calculated to mislead anyone desiring to deduce reliable statistics as to the books really valued and used by the members, so from 1873 until 1885 a new class of figures was issued, showing, of course, the great wickedness of the novel readers compared with those of other classes. These figures related to the annual stocktaking, and showed the number of books missing, the novels missing being generally over 50 per cent. of the total. Prior to 1840 members were allowed free access to the shelves, but in this year the librarian complained that a large number of books were abstracted clandestinely, consequently from this year forward till 1857 members were under the necessity of making their selection from the catalogue, and applying to the librarian for the work they needed. This was always a tedious process, especially for the librarian, who perhaps after searching in the most distant corner of his shelves found the work to be in circulation, so in 1857 the old system was resorted to. This reform, as it was called, was conducive to a greater interest in the library, and doubtless much of the popularity of the institution is due to the freedom allowed members in their access to the books, although unfortunately the privilege is abused. The number of books missing at stocktaking has varied from 123 to 1,908, but the average may be taken at about 900. Last year 472 and this year 510 volumes were not returned in time. As a rule about 25 per cent. of these are traceable and recoverable; the remaining 75 per cent. represent books taken away clandestinely, the greater number of which are lost entirely to the library, chiefly through members being fearful of being detected in clandestinely returning them. This is an evil the committee have sought to deal with in every way save that of reverting to the "closed" system. Whether the popularity of the "open" system is a good set-off to a loss equal to 50 per cent. of the books added in each year is a problem which requires solving.

In 1872	with	1,983	members	there	were	38,000	issues.
In 1885	"	3,141	"	"	"	67,000	"
In 1889	"	3,830	"	"	"	92,000	"
In 1890	"	3,771	"	"	"	98,000	"

The figures for the last two years are worth noting, there being an increase of 6,000 issues in 1890. But in this increase the novel class scarcely shared at all, the great increase of reading being in the more solid classes of literature, thus:—History increased 30 per cent., travels 40 per cent., political economy 55 per cent., poetry 85 per cent., foreign languages 33 per cent. These increases are evidently due to the greater attention social subjects have demanded, to the impetus given to the study of geography by the discoveries of Mr. Stanley and others, and to the great change our educational system has undergone. Every year sees some progress in its attractions and public utility. At the jubilee banquet his Excellency the American Minister (Mr. E. J. Phelps) thus tersely and happily sketched the past and present of the institution, and with his words this paper fittingly concludes:—"Begun in the generosity of some public-spirited and far-seeing men, it has overcome adversity, it has not abused prosperity, it has surmounted calamity, and it stands to-day with wealth that has come from poverty, with a multitude that has gathered from an individual with a generous library, with a noble structure, a building with the most fortunate memories of the past, the best prosperity for the present, the happiest promise for the future."

PERCY CROPPER.

(*Hon. Sec. of the Nott. Mech. Inst. Library.*)

APPENDIX.

	Members.	Books.	Issues.	Periodicals
1837	600	700	—	—
1841	727	—	12,607	—
1845	980	3,081	23,803	—
1850	854	4,823	31,190	32
1855	1,045	5,920	35,469	27
1860	998	6,841	37,735	50
1865	1,309	7,121	30,106	56
1870	1,684	7,291	30,834	74
1875	2,397	9,540	—	100
1880	3,087	11,884	—	174
1885	3,141	15,510	66,865	246
1886	3,216	16,767	71,439	261
1889	3,830	20,937	91,937	334
1890	3,771	22,263	98,160	352



A Bibliography of Bookbinding.—II.

By MISS PRIDEAUX.

EXHIBITIONS ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY.

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(To be continued.)

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Free Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

BIRMINGHAM.—The *Birmingham Weekly Post* of Jan. 2 contains an interesting article headed "Popularising the Free Library." It describes the extending of the system adopted two years ago of placing works on open shelves for reference purposes.

BRENTFORD.—The first of a series of free lectures, under the auspices of the Free Library committee, was given by Mr. Manville Fenn upon "Writers I have Known," on Jan. 25.

BRIGHTON.—In the *Sussex Daily News* of Jan. 11 appears an article on the "Educational Value of Libraries," and directing attention to the Brighton Public Library.

BRISTOL.—Mr. E. R. Norris Mathews, librarian of the museum and library, is in great request as a popular lecturer on musical subjects. His present lecture, on Mozart, illustrated by selections from the composer's works, has been given in Bristol with great success, and he is prepared to give it elsewhere.

LEICESTER.—The Public Libraries committee having decided to erase sporting news, the question was discussed at the meeting of the Town Council on Jan. 26, when the voting was even—24 on each side.

LINCOLN.—On Jan. 23 the Mayor declared a majority in favour of the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts. 2,819 votes were in favour, and 2,330 against, while 1,025 were spoiled.

LONDON, BERMONDSEY.—The elevation of this new library appears in the *Builder* for Jan. 23rd.

The ceremony of opening was performed on Jan. 18 by Sir John Lubbock, M.P., in the presence of a numerous gathering. Mr. A. Lafone, M.P., presided. The Chairman, in commencing the proceedings, said :—

"The site was secured for a sum of £3,000, and the splendid building in which they were now met was put up at a cost of £7,000. Provision had been made for 80,000 volumes, but up to the present they had only been able to purchase 10,000. That the library was appreciated by the residents in the district was shown by the fact that no less than 3,732 persons made use of it during the week ending January 14th."

Sir John Lubbock, in declaring the building open, said :—

"It had been his good fortune to have laid the first stone or to have opened public libraries at Wimbledon, Clapham, Hammersmith, Rotherhithe, Battersea, and elsewhere. At Wimbledon he had to regret that London had to so small an extent availed itself of Mr. Ewart's beneficent legislation. Now, on the contrary, they might congratulate themselves that so much had been accomplished. No doubt much remained to be done, but every district which set the example made it easier for others to follow, and he hoped that before many years were over every part of London and every town in England would have its public library. As time rolled on the argument for such libraries acquired additional strength. When speaking on a previous occasion he endeavoured to show that schools and free libraries rather saved than cost money, and subsequent experience had strengthened that argument. When, moreover, they thought how much was spent on drink no one could accuse them of extravagance on books. It was rather sad to think that when people spoke of a public-house they always thought of a place for the sale of drink. He was glad that all through London public-houses were now rising up for the supply—not of alcohol, but of literature. As a mere matter of pounds, shillings and pence, indeed, it was, he thought, clear that books and education were really an investment and not an expense. Schopenhauer had observed that though his science never brought him in any income, it had saved him a great deal of expense. As a nation, they must gratefully admit that science had not only enormously increased their income, but had greatly reduced their expenditure in various ways. They would not, however, suppose that he should look at the question of public libraries as a mere matter of pounds, shillings and pence. He had only referred to this consideration as a reply to those who objected on the score of expense. They did not advocate public libraries and schools because they saved their pockets, but because they did so much to lighten and brighten the lives of the people. He was glad, as Chairman of the London County Council, to have been able to help the commissioners of this library by advancing the money at a low rate of interest. A very good start had been made with 10,000 books, and he was pleased to hear that Mr. Frowde had taken especial care that science should be well represented. He desired now to make an appeal on behalf of the shopkeepers and shop assistants of Bermondsey. Artisans finished their day's work at six o'clock or earlier. Of them it was still true that "Man goeth forth to his work and to his labour until the evening." But unfortunately this did not hold good for the shop assistant. Evening did not end their labours; they had still then some two or three hours' work before them. In their name he begged of the people of Bermondsey to shop early so that they might also benefit by the library, by the University settlement which he had the pleasure of opening a few days ago, and other institutions, from all benefit of which their long hours now unfortunately precluded them. He had sometimes seen it objected to the public libraries that so large a proportion of the books read were works of fiction. Why, he asked, should they not be, if only they were well chosen? Many learned men had obtained much of their useful knowledge—that of human nature—from Thackeray or Dickens, and more perhaps of history from Shakspeare and Scott than from Stubbs, and as Shakspeare said—

No profit grows where is no pleasure taken;
In brief, sir, study what you most affect.

It was because public libraries added so greatly to the happiness of the poor that he rejoiced at their establishment. There was but little amusement in the lives of the very poor. He had been good-humouredly laughed at more than once for having expressed the opinion that in the next generation the great readers would be our artisans and mechanics. But was not the continued increase of public libraries an argument in support of his contention? Before a public library could be started a free popular vote had to be taken, and they knew that the clergy and the lawyers, the doctors and the mercantile men formed but a small fraction of the voters. The public libraries were called into being by the artisan and the small shopkeeper, and it was by them that they were mainly used. In our manufactories the division of labour was carried to a high pitch. This added, no doubt, enormously to the rapidity of production and the excellence of workmanship, but it also tended to cramp the mind. To counteract this books were more and more necessary."

LONDON, CAMBERWELL.—On Jan. 26 an interesting lecture was given at the Livesey Library, by Mr. Edward Foskett (chief librarian of the Camberwell Public Libraries) on "Tennyson and his Critics." There was a large audience.

LONDON, CHELSEA.—Views of the Public Library staircase, reading room and reference room, have appeared in the *British Architect* for January 8th and 15th, 1892.

LONDON, FINSBURY PARK.—A scheme has been floated to establish a public library for Finsbury Park on the voluntary principle, and with this object in view an appeal is now being made for funds and books.

LONDON, PENCE.—Though four months have elapsed since the poll, no movement has yet been made. On Jan. 26 a meeting was held to urge upon the Library Commissioners prompt action. Some of the Commissioners were present and explained that at present they had no rate, being appointed too late for this half year, and that they were trying to secure a site.

LONDON, ST. LUKE'S.—A scheme has been prepared which appropriates the revenues of certain Cripplegate charities for the provision of a free library and institute for St. Luke's, with suitable branches, the amount to be supplemented by a sum of £40,000 from the central fund for providing polytechnics for London. St. Luke's would therefore have, when the scheme was carried out, a free lending library and institute, without any addition to the rates.

LONGTON.—The question of establishing a Public Library has engaged the attention of the local authority for several years past, but only in May last were the Public Libraries Acts adopted by a poll of the ratepayers amounting to nearly two votes to one. Some difficulty was then experienced in obtaining a habitation for the proposed free library, but this was eventually overcome by the Town Council accepting for the purpose a portion of the buildings comprising the Town Hall and Public Market hitherto occupied by the Athenæum, especially as the committee of the latter institution had decided to hand over as a gift to the town their stock of books, &c. The transfer took place in September last, and, structural alterations having been effected, the premises have been dedicated to the public, comprising a library of between 5,000 and 6,000 carefully-selected volumes, embracing all branches of literature, and a reading room supplied with daily and weekly newspapers, and many of the best periodicals of the day. The opening ceremony on Jan. 26 was performed by the Mayor (Alderman B. Prowse) in the presence of members of the Town Council, borough magistrates, the local clergy, and a large number of the principal inhabitants, who had assembled at the Court House, and from thence marched in procession to the Free Library. Mr. Pratt, M.A., has been appointed librarian.

LYNN STANLEY.—The annual meeting of the subscribers of the Lynn Stanley Library was held on Jan. 24. The committee reported the adverse result of the poll in May last :—For adopting the Public Libraries Acts, 677 ; against, 1,443 ; papers spoiled and rejected, 655 ; unaccounted for, 622. Total, 3,397.

MANCHESTER.—The Free Libraries committee of Manchester contemplate carrying out a scheme which will, no doubt, prove exceedingly acceptable to the inhabitants. Branch libraries have been established in many parts of the city, but these are at long and inconvenient distances. The committee, with a view of remedying this drawback, intend opening

in all the thickly populated parts of the city, not libraries, but well-lighted, well-warmed, and comfortable reading rooms, which will be furnished with popular literature of every description. It is felt that such institutions will become evening resorts for working people who find it either inconvenient or impossible to take advantage of the more dignified library. Mr. Harry Rawson, the deputy-chairman of the committee, is devoting himself to the development of the scheme with much enthusiasm.

ROTHERHAM.—A branch library for Kimberworth was opened on Jan. 18 by the Vicar (Rev. F. H. Stock).

SALFORD.—Major John Plant, who has been chief Librarian and Curator of the Free Library and Museum since 1849, has resigned; but in order to still profit by his experience and advice, the Committee have resolved to retain him as "Consulting Librarian."

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—The Town Council on Jan. 5, by 21 votes to six, decided to open the free library news-room from three p.m. to nine p.m. on Sundays. In order to avoid the employment of Sunday labour several councillors offered to form a rota among themselves to discharge the necessary duties. A suggestion to obliterate betting news on Sundays was referred to the Free Library Committee.

YORK.—The history of the movement in favour of the adoption of the Libraries Act in the city of York, which, after being twice defeated, has now been so happily accomplished, is full of encouragement to the friends of the cause. The motto of the friends who have so long hoped for this consummation would seem to have been "unhasting yet unresting," and, at last, by an unanimous vote in the Council, and the concurrence of the leaders of all shades of opinion in the city, the Acts have been adopted. This result was largely due to Mr. W. W. Morell's able pamphlet, which was widely distributed previous to the poll being taken. There were still found 2,000 odd persons who voted against it, but they had no exponent of their views; those who on the last occasion were loudest in opposition being now equally conspicuous in its favour. This is just as it should be, and shows how public opinion can be educated, if persons will take the time and make the effort to do it. They will have a rich reward. We are glad to see that the City Council have promptly nominated a library committee, in part from outside their body, with the mover of the resolution as chairman, and already good progress is being made in the direction of establishing the library.

Abstracts of Public Library Reports.

[N.B.—For Tabular Abstract of Statistics see page 66.]

BIRKENHEAD: Librarian, WILLIAM MAY.—Decrease in circulation attributed to the severe weather in January and February, also to the closing of the Library for cleaning and painting. "On the re-opening the librarian delivered an address to the readers upon the history of the Library, methods of reading, the use and abuse of public libraries, and the behaviour of readers." He also read a paper before the Birkenhead Literary and Scientific Society on "What the People read." The serious outbreak of typhus fever caused many to think that the possibility existed of books being returned from infected houses containing germs of contagion, and again issued. But the librarian kept regularly posted lists of infected houses, and on the few occasions books were returned from such they were at once burnt. The report does not say if the Health Committee replaced the burnt books. New hand list of recent additions issued.

BLACKPOOL: Librarian, MISS HANNAH ETESON.—A supplementary catalogue has been issued. Larger Reading Room urgently needed. The dates used are rather puzzling. On the cover it is called "Tenth Annual Report, 1889-90." The Chairman's signature is dated Jan. 12th, 1891. On page 15 it is termed the "eighth" (!) Report, and the account is for the years ending 25th March, 1890 and 1891, and the borough treasurer signs it 6th May, 1891. The total number of vols. issued is given in table C as 51,087, and in tables A and D as 46,805.

BOLTON: Librarian, JAMES K. WAITE.—"The providing of newspapers has given very great satisfaction." Mere Hall Branch opened on 22nd August. 1,621 vols. transferred from the Subscription Library. Fines in the Reference Library produced £7.

BRADFORD: Librarian, BUTLER WOOD.—The installation of the electric light is completed. The scarcity of new books and the great strike are among the causes which interfered with the work of the Library. The documents and papers relating to the history of Bradford and vicinity in the Hailstone Collection were purchased by the Mayor and other gentlemen and presented to the Library. The Directories are now placed on open shelves. On pp. 16, 17, a useful chronological history of the Libraries is given in a footnote.

BUXTON: Librarian W. C. PLANT.—Number of books is very inadequate. 628 pennies were paid by borrowers for the reserving of books. In the Classification of Borrowers there appear out of a total of 1,378 only 19 schoolboys and 10 schoolgirls. With this is a supplementary report, so as to make the year end on March 25th. In it it is stated that the whole class of fiction (830 vols.) is turned over every week. The rate realised £211; of this £127 were expended for interest and repayment of loan and for sinking fund, whilst salaries for three quarters amount to £30!

CAMBRIDGE: Librarian, JOHN PINK.—The information given on the back of the title page is well worthy of imitation. Ten years since a Circular of Information was left at each house, and in February last the same plan was adopted. Only four books lost from the open shelves, on which are 1,437 vols. Annual Supplement of Lending Library Catalogue issued. The Barnwell Branch Library has been renovated. The Guardians have given a site on the Mill Road for a Branch Library, and plans are being prepared.

CARDIFF: Librarian, JOHN BALLINGER.—In consequence of the transfer of the cost of maintaining the Science and Art Schools to the Technical Instruction Committee, three branch Reading Rooms have been opened and two are nearly ready. It is hoped that the power conferred by the "Museums and Gymnasiums Act, 1891," will at once be put into operation. £362 were spent on the Museum last year, and that amount would be then available for the Library. The "Tonn" Library, about 7,000 vols. of printed books and about 100 MSS., chiefly relating to Wales, has been acquired. A public subscription towards the cost has realised £350. Mr. H. M. Thompson bought the portion of the Library of the late Prof. K. Parker, F.R.S., containing Transactions of the Scientific Societies, and presented the works (293 vols.) to the Library. A collection of 1,200 photographs for the Photographic Survey of Glamorganshire has been given. At the visit of the British Association the chief librarian exhibited a collection of local maps belonging to the Library, and gave a short address. A supply of 15 vols. of new works (fiction excepted) is now obtained monthly on loan from Mudie's for use

in the Reference Library. Experiment of closing Lending Library at 8 p.m. instead of 9 p.m. has been abandoned, as the Committee found that the earlier hour was detrimental to the hard-working poor. Number of borrowers who refused or neglected to pay the fines incurred have been proceeded against in the County Court. In many cases the amounts were paid before the day of hearing, but in all other cases the County Court Judge made an order for immediate payment with costs. The North Branch has been furnished almost exclusively by gifts from residents in the district; the new Reading Room opened on July 29th, 1891. The small Reference Library, placed in an open bookcase, has been extensively used and much appreciated. Canton and Riverside Branch opened 14th September, 1891.

DEWSBURY: Librarian, W. H. SMITH.—History of the Public Library movement in Dewsbury is given. On December 21st, 1889, the news-room at the Wheelwright Schools, opened by the Mayor, Ald. George Clay. On May 1st, 1890, the Lending Library opened. Catalogue issued in June. The local press greatly helped the movement. The Committee hope that a new Public Library will be erected in conjunction with the new baths. At present the Reference Library is stowed away in the Town Hall owing to want of space at the Wheelwright Schools. 260 mill-hands, 294 scholars and 106 teachers are to be found among the 2,205 borrowers. The Mayoress and four other ladies are upon the Committee.

HANLEY: Librarian, ARTHUR J. MILWARD.—Three members of the Committee have died. Reference Room and Ladies' Room have been painted and made comfortable. The issues in Lending Department decreased owing to the funds allowing of the purchase of so few new books. Much wilful damage done to books. One borrower had systematically damaged every book he had from the Library. The Town Clerk was instructed to take proceedings. The offender was fined 20s. and costs in each of the two cases clearly proved against him, and in addition the money for the purchase of two new volumes was recovered. Improvement in issue attributed to lectures and classes given in the town under the Cambridge University Extension Scheme.

LEAMINGTON SPA: Librarian, DAVID B. GRANT.—605 volumes purchased at a cost of £132 16s. 7d. Appeal from Chairman stating inconveniences of present building and asking the Town Council not to delay the consideration of larger premises for the library, especially as the Borough area has been increased.

LEEDS: Librarian, JAMES YATES.—Dr. Lees, the temperance advocate, has presented his collection of works on Temperance (170 vols.). The members of the Leeds Private Vocal Society have given their musical library. The Leeds Naturalists' Club have deposited over 400 vols. on Natural History. New catalogue published of the Lending Library. "H.M. Inspector of Schools for this district has impressed upon the School Board the advisability of establishing libraries for the scholars in all the schools under their control, pointing out that in the schools where there are such libraries the pupils are sharper and more intelligent." Libraries of 200 vols. each have been added to seven Board Schools, in addition to four established some years ago. The Town Council refused to insert a clause in the Consolidation and Improvement Bill for power to levy a rate not exceeding 2d. in the £ for Library and Art Gallery purposes. A copy of the correspondence with the Board of Trade about Alphabetical Indexes of Trade Marks has been printed, and may be had on application by any Librarian willing to co-operate. There

appears to be some confusion as to the exact number of vols. in the whole of the Libraries : on pp. 6 and 15 it is given as 169,978 : on p. 8, Reference Library, 43,132 ; on p. 12, Lending Library and Branches, 125,411 ; total, 168,543 ; but on p. 11 the total is given 168,535.

LEEK : Librarian, KINETON PARKES.—The latter half of the programme of the Nicholson Institute, Leek, is devoted to the Free Library. Book and Magazine Club established in connection with the Library. No statistics given of any kind ; no balance sheet furnished. Pp. 24-31 are filled with a useful catalogue of Books on Art, Science and Technology.

LONDON : CAMBERWELL AND LAMBETH.—The Minet Library. Supervising Librarian, FRANK J. BURGOYNE ; Librarian and Secretary, CHARLES JOSEPH COURTNEY.—This Library is the first founded under 52 Vict., chap. 9, sec. 3. The Board of Commissioners consists of six gentlemen, the maximum number allowed by 18 and 19 Vict., cap. 70, sec. 14. Library opened on July 26, 1890. Mr. Minet continues to show his interest in a most practical manner ; to him is owing the library of local works. No financial statement is given.

LONDON : FULHAM : Librarian, H. BURNS.—The Fourth Annual Report was presented at the meeting of the Commissioners held on September 1st, 1891. We are indebted to the local press for the information at our disposal. Although the number (not given) of books is said to be small, the issue is large, more than 11,000 volumes being borrowed from the Lending Department. Number of issues (not given) in Reference Department has increased. Male borrowers outnumber the female. £300 to be spent on more books. No financial statement published.

LONDON : HAMMERSMITH : Librarian, S. MARTIN.—The desire is frequently expressed to extend the time for reading from a week to a fortnight for books not belonging to the "Fiction and Juvenile" Classes. The Commissioners will be unable to comply until their funds will allow them largely to increase the stock and provide duplicates. Complaint is made of the abuse of books issued for home reading, and even the papers and magazines in the Reading Rooms have been cut. The Muster Roll of the Loyal Hammersmith Volunteers, 1803, has been presented. The collection of local views lent by the Vestry is much appreciated.

LONDON : KENSINGTON : Librarian, HERBERT JONES.—Catalogue of Central Lending Department issued. The new North Kensington Branch opened by Sir John Lubbock, M.P., on 29th October, 1891 ; the premises at Notting Hill Gate have been given up. The difficulty of finding a suitable site for the Brompton Branch is far greater than anticipated, and the Commissioners have not yet been successful.

LONDON : ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WESTMINSTER : Librarian, THOMAS MASON.—The information, from which this extract is taken, is given in the 35th Annual Report of the Vestry. On page 15 the Vestry clerk reports that the Public Libraries Acts Amendment Bill (1890) was *dropped*. This "dropped" bill became law on August 18th, 1890, as 53 and 54 Vict., ch. 68. The Library was "opened by Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., on the 12th February, 1891, and on that day the Vestry passed a vote of thanks to him for the honour conferred upon the parish." A full and able account appeared in the "St. Martin-in-the-Fields Monthly Messenger."

NEWPORT: Librarian JAMES MATTHEWS.—New Foreign Section of 599 vols. (all presented) formed. Regret expressed at death of Mr. John Wood, Chairman for nearly twenty years. The list of books added during the year fills twelve pages.

NOTTINGHAM: Librarian, J. POTTER BRISCOE.—A Reading Room was opened on October 13th, in Popham Street, and another on March 31st, in Carlton Road. Regret expressed at the death of Captain Starey, the pioneer of the Free Library Movement in Nottingham, and for many years Chairman. List of principal additions to Reference Library given.

SOUTHPORT: Librarian, THOMAS NEWMAN.—The slight decrease in issues accounted for by the Lending Department being closed for an extra eight days for painting, etc. The Committee propose to issue a catalogue which, it is hoped, will prove a stimulus to the readers in the district where the branch is. On p. 2 it is stated that 11,967 vols. have been issued for reference in the Reading Room, and 6,026 vols. in the Reference Library; on p. 5, under heading Reference Department and Reading Room only 11,967 vols. are given as the issue in both.

TONBRIDGE: Librarian, GEORGE PRESSNELL.—The Committee feel that there is always the hope that those who begin with fiction may go on eventually to more thoughtful and permanently useful reading. Great inconvenience is still occasioned by the congested state of the building.

WIMBLEDON: Librarian, T. H. RABBITT.—Subscription to Messrs. Smith and Son's Circulating Library continued. The 45 vols. of the newest books thus supplied were issued 1,313 times.

WINSFORD: Librarian, W. KISSOCK.—This first report for 1890-91 appears to treat of varying periods: the accounts are for the year ended 25th March, 1890, the statistics are for the year ending December 30th, 1889. Henty's *Facing Death* has been issued the greatest number of times, viz., 59.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Librarian, JOHN ELLIOT.—The weight of the libraries over the News and Magazine Rooms has necessitated the fixing of six strong iron pillars to support the ceilings of these rooms. Supplementary catalogue of 10,000 vols. issued.

Reports of Libraries not under the Acts.

Glasgow. The Glasgow Athenæum (Limited). Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Directors. Donald C. Moodie, Librarian.

Fifty-two pages are filled with information respecting this institution, of which two pages are devoted to the Library. 62,145 volumes issued on the 307 days the Library has been open during the year, fiction forming 64 per cent. of the total. Complete set of the ordnance survey maps of Scotland, mounted on cloth and bound in three large volumes, has been added.

Hastings. Brassey Institute: Reference Library. E. H. Marshall, M.A., Librarian.

No copy of the Third Annual Report to hand. The following is taken from the local press:—"At the meeting of the Town Council held on October 2, the Librarian reported that the total number of books (not

volumes) issued to readers during the twelve months ending September 10th, 1891, had been 5,700. There had been a steady sale of the Library catalogue. A supplementary list of books had been printed, and bound up with the remaining copies of the catalogue printed in 1889. This Reference Library had been open since January 31st, 1881. It was gratifying to call attention to the continued demand for books of an instructive character, which, indeed, compose the bulk of the Library. The books of fiction were about 13 per cent. of the whole number issued. A table was given showing the number of books, in various divisions, issued to readers, from October 1st, 1890, to September 30th, 1891, of which the following is the summary:—Theology, 587; history, 913; travels, 325; science, etc., 1,700; literature and poetry, 786; fiction, 757; foreign and classical, 65; miscellaneous, 576; total, 5,709. This did not include dictionaries and other books of reference, which were placed on the table for the free use of readers."

London. People's Palace Library, Mile End, E. Miss James, Librarian.

The Palace Journal for August 7, 1891, contains the half-year's report—January to June, 1891. The Library was open 178 days. 29,257 admissions registered on Sundays, and 196,842 on week days, making a total of 226,109. 5,611 works issued on Sundays, 31,879 on week days, and 3,737 books issued to boys on Sunday bring the total to 41,227. 245 volumes presented, and 61 purchased at a cost of £15 15s. 3½d. £2 os. 4½d. has been found in the Library donation box. Mr. Quilter reports that the Wilkie Collins' Memorial Library will not be ready till the end of 1891.

London. St. Marylebone Free Public Library. Second Annual Report, for the year ending March 31st, 1891. pp. 21. W. E. Doubleday, Librarian.

Library at Mortimer Street opened by the Duke of Fife on May 1st, 1890. Catalogues of each Library have been issued. A glance at the Treasurer's Report shows, unfortunately, that the Association is entering upon the fifth year of its work in an almost penniless condition. In the two Libraries are 6,703 volumes, and 36,922 volumes have been lent out for home reading, fiction forming 74 per cent. 21,226 books have been read in the two Reference Libraries, of which 3,927 are classed as fiction. 1,401 tickets are in use. 336,711 attendances in the Reading Rooms, of which 13,974 were on Sunday. The tabulated results of the two adverse polls in 1888 and 1891 are given, the latter showing nearly an increase of 2,000 votes in favour of the adoption of the Acts.

COLONIAL.

New South Wales. Sydney Free Public Library. Twentieth Report from Trustees for 1890, presented to Parliament by Command. pp. 15, folio. Principal Librarian and Secretary, Robert Cooper Walker.

New Library in Macquarie Street opened on May 1st, and the overcrowding has been thereby, for the present, entirely put an end to. The much-regretted death of Prof. W. J. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S., Chairman of the Board from March 27th, 1885, until his death on November 22nd, 1890, is referred to. 61,284 volumes are in the Reference Depart-

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORTS.

NOTE: Under "Year ending," the first figure refers to the month, the second to the year: e.g., "3-90"=March, 1890. When no figure appears under a heading it means that the required information cannot be obtained from the report.

Name.	No. of Repts.	Year Ending.	No. of Pages.	No. of Branches.	Number of Volumes in Stock.				Volumes Issued.				Per cent. of Fiction.	No. of Borrowers.	Product of Rate.	Total Income.
					Reference Library.	Lending Library.	Branches.	Total.	Reference Library.	Lending Library.	Branches.	Total.				
Birkenhead	35	3-91	16	...	12,146	33,950	...	46,096	95,687	158,004	...	253,691	54	1,449*	1,728	2,012
Blackpool	10	10-90	15	1	...	7,056	...	...	...	46,805a	4,459b	...	92	1,579	519c	674
Bolton	38	10-91	20	3	35,542	14,220	22,291	72,053	79,461	34,127	137,939	317,013i	79	2,509*	1,650	3,150k
Bradford	21	8-91	25	8	20,126g	18,257	29,237	67,620	72,972g	163,664	244,368	485,275h	90l	10,457*	3,700	4,515
Buxton	1	3-91	17	...	...	...	...	2,477	...	...	...	72,060d	83e	1,378*	211	262
Cambridge	36	6-91	29	1	10,307	22,521	5,198	38,026	7,783f	73,252	17,199	98,234	72	1,053*	1,082	1,200
Cardiff	29	10-91	43	5	22,987	20,349	2,009	45,345	14,139	128,824	...	142,953	75m	2,578*	2,583	4,389
Dewsbury	1	3-91	10	...	...	6,411	...	6,411	...	50,338	...	50,338	56	2,205*	415	807
Hammersmith	2	3-91	18	...	1,650	7,875	...	9,525	3,055	182,441	...	185,496	61	6,324	931	1,152
Hanley	4	4-91	31	...	2,167	6,018	...	8,185	5,771	64,856	...	70,627	86	1,942*	690	909
Kensington	3	3-91	32	2	7,571	7,316	13,192	28,079	14,778	56,235	99,443	170,446	81	...	4,079	4,289
Leamington	(?)	9-91	8	...	5,338	10,172	...	15,510	8,530	57,530	...	66,000	63	625*	617	...
Leeds	21	3-91	26	25s	43,132	41,798	83,613n	168,543z	117,424	314,012	350,893	782,329	58p	22,387*	5,222	6,011
Minet x	1	7-91	12	...	...	...	...	6,738	...	...	...	122,555	64	5,307*	...	...
Newport	21	3-91q	32	2	5,671	12,746	...	18,417	21,192	62,474	...	83,666	44	...	1,000	1,312
Nottingham	(?)	3-91	30	12	23,480	26,369	18,686	68,535	47,892	213,407	172,508	433,807	79	4,605	...	...
St. Martin-in-the-Fields	...	3-91	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,955f	3,869f	...	7,824f	...	...	2,078	...
Southport	16	3-91	10	2	3,504	17,683	...	21,187	17,993	95,586	1,336	114,915	73	1,275*	961	1,020
Tonbridge	8	3-91	12	...	...	...	...	6,126	...	...	...	26,226	74	1,294*	140	169
Wimbledon	4	3-91	24	...	2,207	6,239	...	8,446	7,553	75,655	...	83,208	75u	2,276*	666	803
Winsford	1	12-89	14	...	185	3,554	...	3,739	467	24,880	...	25,347	53	1,118*	164	429
Wolverhampton..	22	9-91	21	...	6,006	26,193	...	32,199	8,478	61,254	...	69,732	67	895*	1,095	1,322

* New Borrowers. a—See p. 5. b—See p. 3. c-3 only. d—Nov. 1, 1889—Mar. 25, 1891. e—Including Juvenile. f—Excluding open shelves. g—Including Art Library. h—Including 4,331, Patents. i—Including 65,486, Subscription Library. k—Including Balance forward, £1,393. l—Including General Literature. m—Including Juvenile. n—On p. 18 given as 83,605. p—Including Poetry and Drama. q—For 15 months. r—16 Feb.—25 Mar. only. s—On cover 32 are mentioned. t—Aug., 1889—Mar., 1891. u—Including Juvenile. x—Camberwell and Lambeth. z—On p. 18 given as 168,535, but on p. 6 as 169,978.

ment, 20,735 volumes (including 2,245 fiction) in the Lending Branch, and 4,265 volumes are for country Libraries, making a total of 86,284 volumes. Total number of visits for the year, 155,822. On Sundays, 4,478 visits to the Reference Library and 2,205 to the Lending Branch; from 137 boxes sent to the country Libraries, 10,070 volumes have been issued, and the boxes have travelled 47,737 miles, and the demand for boxes is in excess of supply. Mr. Alex. Oliver (Trustee) has given "a special collection of 284 volumes of works relating to the Drink Question, for which a special compartment has been reserved." Mr. Richard Tangye has presented "a rare and curious poem in MS. relating to Australasia, by 'Stormy Jack,' 12mo. (n.p.) 1815-44." A list of books missing from the Lending Branch (1885-90) is given, with names and addresses of borrowers, also the names of 25 works reported missing during 1889, but returned in 1890, with names and addresses of borrowers. No financial statement is furnished.

Rating of Railways : An Important Decision.

OVERSEERS OF WANDSWORTH V. LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

We make no apology for presenting to our readers a full report of this important case.

To insure accuracy of detail—the want of which is so common a defect in lay reports of law cases—we have had the newspaper report carefully revised by a barrister conversant with all the facts of the case.

Royal Courts of Justice. (Before Justices Matthew and A. L. Smith.) October 27th, 1891.

Mr. Page, for the railway company, shewed cause against a rule *nisi* obtained by Mr. Stroud, last June, whereby the Wandsworth justices were ordered to issue their warrant of distress against the company to recover a sum of £223 18s. 8d. as arrears of Wandsworth library rates made in the years 1885, '6, '7, '8, which had arisen in consequence of an erroneous belief that the line of railway as "land" within the meaning of the Public Library Acts was only liable to pay one-third of the rates. That contention had been acted upon, and the so-called arrears had been allowed to the company, and had been entered in the rate-books as "irrecoverable." The parish in 1889 discovered the mistake, and in March of that year applied (through the vestry clerk) to the justices at Wandsworth to issue a distress warrant for £60 os. 7d. arrears, being two-thirds of the library rate made on the railway in May, 1888, and which had been dealt with as before stated, and entered in the rate-books as "irrecoverable." The justices declined to issue the warrant. In February last the overseers again demanded this sum of £60 os. 7d., with similar arrears for the years 1885-7, and amounting in all to £223 18s. 8d. In April last Mr. Stroud had applied to the justices to issue their distress warrant for this sum of £223 18s. 8d., but they declined to reverse their previous decision. Counsel then contended that the justices were right in their refusal, for (1) there could be no arrears without a demand, and what had been demanded by the overseers acting when the rates were current had been paid by the railway, and the present overseers could not revise the acts of their predecessors; and (2) that these so-called arrears had been allowed to the railway, and that allowance was on the same footing as a payment made in mistake of law which could not be rectified.

Mr. F. Stroud (instructed by Mr. G. W. Barnard, a Commissioner of the Library) was not called on to reply.

The Court held that the points taken for the railway company were bad, that a proper demand had been made, that there had been no allowance at all, and even if there had been that it did not prevent the unpaid portion of these rates from being recovered by the present overseers, the payment of the rates in full being a matter of public obligation. The Court granted a mandamus to the justices at Wandsworth to issue their warrant against the railway for the whole of the £223 18s. 8d., and gave the overseers their costs as against the railway company. The justices appeared by counsel and asked that their costs might be allowed as against the overseers, but this was disallowed.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

BOHN'S QUARTERLY BIBLIOGRAPHY.

If this forthcoming publication fulfils the promise of its publisher it will prove a valuable boon to all librarians and book-buyers. The prospectus states that it will contain "as complete as possible a classified bibliography of all new publications published in the English language. To attain this we record and classify *every title* named in the following bibliographies:—American: *Publishers' Weekly, Am. Bookseller, Book-seller and Stationer, Publisher.* Canadian: *Canadian Bookseller, Books and Notions*, Toronto. British: *Publishers' Circular, Bookseller.* We will furthermore include the announcements of the more important literary periodicals, as *The Nation, The Critic, The Athenaeum, Torch and Colonial Book Circular*, &c. All publications in English published on the Continent will also be included. We will not omit any title, however insignificant, and we will certainly compile thus the most complete bibliography of current English literature. All information as to full title, place of publication, publisher, size, number of pages and illustrations, price, &c., as far as obtainable will be given, and all entries will be made according to the rules of the American Library Association. The whole material will be *classified by branches* as Theology, Law, Medicine, &c., and then under those general headings by *subjects*. A *complete author index* will facilitate searches in that direction."

The first number will be issued on or about April 15th. The terms of subscription are \$3.00 (12s., 12 mks., 15 frs.) a year. Subscriptions are taken for England by B. F. Stevens, Trafalgar Square. The publisher is Lewis Bohn, Milwaukee, Wis., U.S.A.

Études sur la reliure des livres et sur les collections de bibliophiles célèbres. [Par] Gustave Brunet. (Seconde Édition.) Bordeaux, Veuve Moquet, 1891. 8vo. pp. vi., 169.

Books upon Binding have been appearing of late with almost bewildering frequency. Technical treatises, histories, monographs on special periods, and catalogues have followed pell-mell one upon another. Every style, too, has been reproduced again and again in elaborate facsimiles, by no means in accordance with that inexpensive formula, "a penny plain and two-pence coloured." It is almost a relief to find that there are no illustrations to this new edition of M. Brunet's useful little book, and very few rapturous descriptions of particular works. His opening chapters are mainly bibliographical, mentioning and briefly describing some of the most important recent publications on the art. But the special feature of M. Brunet's work is his series of lists of bindings from the libraries of famous collectors which have found a place in booksellers'

advertisements or sale-catalogues during the last thirty years. Thus, of books bound for Grolier M. Brunet mentions no less than fifty, many of which are not included in M. Leroux de Lincy's list. Of those knocked down under the hammer few have fetched less than a hundred pounds, while the *Æthiopica Historica* of Heliodorus (Basle, 1552, folio), purchased at the Libri sale in 1859 for £110, when resold at M. Techener's sale, six years later, attained no less a price than £480. Of books bound for Maioli, M. Brunet enumerates twenty-eight, among them a copy of Procopius' *De Bello Persico*, printed at Rome, so it is said, in 1564. As this work fetched no less than 6,000 fr. at the Didot sale (1878) its genuineness need not be disputed, but as "still living in 1549" has hitherto been our last mention of Maioli, the date 1564 seems open to suspicion. The highest price mentioned by M. Brunet as fetched of late years by a book from Maioli's library is the £365 given at the Beckford sale (1883) for his copy of Massuccio's *Cinquanta Novelle* (Venice, 1541). Of the celebrated cameo bindings at one time in the possession of the Papal physician, Demetrio Canevari, sixteen have come into the market of late years, the top price being reached by a copy of *Il Bianco Tirante* (Venice, 1538) which fetched £119, also at the Beckford sale. After books owned by these three famous amateurs come lists of twenty-one bound for Francis I., and thirty-two for Henri II., the prices in neither case being as high as might have been expected. Of De Thou it is pleasant to find that M. Brunet has an opinion based upon other than a market value. "Un bibliophile bien supérieur à Grolier sous tous les rapports" is a very true estimation, but one by no means indicated by the prices fetched by the ninety-seven works here catalogued from the Bibliotheca Thuana. Chiefly, of course, owing to the great size of his library, the arms of De Thou, in whichever of their numerous combinations they may occur, add nowadays but a trifle to the value of the binding. From the historian, M. Brunet proceeds to the Baron de Longepierre, who commemorated his solitary dramatic success, his *Medea*, by placing a golden fleece on his bindings. Thence to the Comtesse de Verrue, one of the most famous of the "femmes bibliophiles" of France; to the library of Madame de Pompadour; to that of Count d'Hoym, whose books, like De Thou's, suffer from their multiplicity; and to many others. M. Brunet's lists thus furnish an excellent guide to the comparative rarity of books belonging to the chief collectors of the past, and to their market value: the which information, commercial and uninspiring though it be, is a thing to be grateful for. Some notes on Trautz-Bauzonnet and other famous firms of modern binders bring to an end an interesting little book.

Library Association of the United Kingdom.

DISCUSSION ON SIZE NOTATION.

The last monthly meeting was held at Hanover Square on the 8th February. The discussion on the report of the committee on "Size Notation" was resumed.

Mr. MACALISTER read the following criticism which he had received from Mr. Madeley (Warrington):—

"My first and chief objection to the scheme proposed is that it utterly fails in practice. To ascertain the size of a book by means of it requires the comparison of a number of factors—height, width, number of leaves, date of publication, condition (*i.e.*, whether cut or not)—which it is absolutely impossible to go into in ordinary practice. There is no short cut—if you decide to take, say, height only as a rough guide, you will find that

determinations so made will be contradicted by special cases, in which greater trouble is taken. And after all, in a larger majority of cases, the answer given by the table is quite oracular, it leaves you 'fronting north by south.' Take *The Encyclopædia Britannica* or the *Reports of the Science and Art Department*, or the *Story of the Nations* uncut and cut, or rather, let me say, take a score books of different sizes at random and try in how many cases you can get a definite answer out of the table, and how long it takes you to do it. The $\frac{1}{2}$ inch margin between the different sizes is a great difficulty—an insuperable one to my mind.

"The sanction which the report gives to the continued use of names of sizes of paper, 'imperial,' 'royal,' &c., is, I submit, very injudicious. We grudge the space occupied by such names in our catalogues, and I doubt if they are at all understood by the public. They are known only from their appearance in publishers' advertisements, where many of them are used solely for their advertising value—not really in order to convey information. No publisher describes a book as 12mo, unless he wishes to impress the fact that it is particularly small, and he applies the term 'crown 8vo,' to Bright's *History of England* ($6\frac{1}{2}$ in. high), and even smaller books. For us to use those terms, therefore, may represent to the cataloguer considerable accuracy of determination, but no user of the catalogue can be certain what is meant, and to offer definite information which cannot be clearly understood is useless. What we want for ordinary work is a method which is rapid and certain in use, which conveys a definite meaning—and the same meaning in all cases—and which can be supplemented where necessary by more detailed and minute information.

"Secondly, I maintain that the report is wrong in many statements. There is a paragraph to which objection may be taken—to the effect 'that a perfect regularity of gradation is an object worth attaining, yet, as it interferes with actual fact' the $\frac{1}{2}$ in. interval has *alone* been attempted. If it interferes with fact, why is it worth attaining? The truth is that in fact there *is* a perfect gradation, if by perfect gradation we mean that there are books of all sizes. What it interferes with is theory, *i.e.*, the particular theory upon which this table is constructed. The theory being (apparently) that books shall be described according to the size they were originally intended to be, and not, as is necessary in practice, according to the size we actually find them to be. A really scientific method would require that each size should overlap the adjoining ones.

"The proportion of width to height is quite wrongly stated. The table says octavos are $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, but as a matter of fact, all ordinary 8vos are *under* $\frac{3}{4}$. Then quartos are given in the table as $\frac{1}{2}$, and in the body of the report it is explained that anything over $\frac{1}{2}$ is $\frac{3}{4}$! This may be bibliography, but it is not mathematics. It is foolish (being unnecessary) and quite confusing to limit to definite dimensions, the width as well as the height. As a matter of fact, 4tos are over $\frac{1}{2}$, and 8vos are less than $\frac{3}{4}$, and there is no use whatever in further definition.

"I do not say anything about the heights, as they are very much a matter of expediency.

"The Committee attempted too much. It was appointed to devise a *size*-notation, but, as the fourth paragraph of the report says, it attempted to 'solve the difficulty of a combination of a size and signature notation in one plan.' This is the explanation of the practical defects in the scheme, and the result goes to prove that size and signature have no common measure, and *cannot* be combined in one plan. As we are told that neither size nor signature, but fold, is the true test, I hope we have seen the last of attempts to solve this particular difficulty."

Mr. TEDDER said that under most circumstances the general reader rarely concerned himself with the question whether the work he sought

was of one size or another, always excepting the cases where a large paper copy or an *édition de luxe* gave him forcible evidence of varieties in bulk. For ordinary cataloguing purposes the speaker found it convenient to disregard any attempt at precision. He used the three well-known names of octavo, quarto, and folio, with the qualifying additions of small and large. These terms were understood by all, and for their right application he thought experience a better guide than even the foot rule. But size nomenclature was of great importance to the bibliographer, to whom the *format* was a part of the history of the book, and the speaker considered that the scheme proposed by the sub-committee had many points of merit, one of which was its suitability alike to old and to new books. Mr. Hutton, of the "Gladstone Library" (National Liberal Club), had devised a simple notation by which he divided his books into four sizes, and indicated the smallest by A, the next by B, the next by C, and the largest by D.

Mr. QUINN said that he was bound to speak well of the proposed notation, for he had used it practically for a long time, and found no difficulty in doing so. It answered his purpose well, and he ventured to think that if tried by others the theoretical objections would disappear.

Mr. MAC ALISTER said that Mr. Hutton's plan was as simple as A B C, but it only gave a rough idea of the size of a book, and for exact bibliography this was of little use. In this discussion it was necessary to remember that the advantage of a good system of notation was for the cataloguer and bibliographer, and that for mere shelf arrangement it was of little or no importance. An old Pott quarto and a modern octavo might well rest peaceably on the same shelf, but it was misleading to describe them in a catalogue by the same term or sign. The old notation was worthless for modern books, for it indicated only the fold of the sheet, and not its size. In the days of hand-made papers the size was indicated indirectly because of the uniformity in the sizes of sheets, but now when the size of the paper depended on the fancy of the manufacturer it was utterly meaningless to use the old notation, for *The Graphic* might be an 8vo and *The Times* a 16mo. It seemed to him that as they had before them two distinct conditions they must use two notations. For the older books and down to the time when the old names became meaningless why should they not adhere to the old notation, which was simple and perfect for its purpose. For modern books why should they not adopt modern precision, and give the height of each book in inches or millimetres.

It was an undoubted convenience to be able to learn the height of a book from the catalogue, and for this purpose the only rule required to guide the cataloguer was a pocket one. The width was unimportant unless it happened to be uncommon, as in the case of the *Long Quarterly*.

Mr. HUGH JAMES thought that Mr. Mac Alister had touched the crux of the whole question when he pointed out the differentiation in size notation, which marked various periods in book production. Without attempting off-hand to fix the period within a few years, he would remind the meeting that since 1850 changes in the manufacture of paper and the eccentricities of publishers had multiplied sizes enormously. His opinion was that it would be well to fix a date for old style notation, and describe all books published after that date according to the new style; and that an effort should be made to get a decided majority of the Association to agree first of all to certain broad principles of size notation for the modern books, which could afterwards be amplified by sub-division as found workable. It seemed a pity that the earnest labours of experienced men, as embodied in the Report before them,

should be shelved from time to time, and he would rather hope that some of their practical members would follow Mr. Quinn's example, and give the recommendations of the Committee a fair trial. The question did not seem to interest the public librarians of London at present. The proportion of old literature on the shelves of our metropolitan public libraries was at present very small, but as time went on he hoped it would grow, and this subject would then be of more importance to public librarians. He hoped, in conclusion, that the report would be tried practically by some of their members, and some definite recommendation arrived at.

Mr. BROWN (Clerkenwell) asked if the question of adopting a size-scale for books was not rather for an annual meeting to decide. He thought it would be very rash for a small meeting of London members to pledge the Association to anything in the shape of a system of size-notation which was sure to meet with considerable opposition, and he suggested that the question be referred to the next annual meeting for settlement.

Messrs. Gilbert, Cox, Davis, and Spokes also contributed to the discussion, and it was resolved that Messrs. J. D. Brown, J. H. Quinn, H. R. Plomer, T. B. Reed and Hugh James, with the original members of the committee and the officers of the Association, form a new committee to put the proposed notation to a practical test and report the result to the May Meeting.

Mr. Mac Alister gave notice that he would propose that Cutter's Cataloguing Rules be considered at an early monthly meeting, with a view to their being adopted as the official rules of the Association.

Mason College Library, Birmingham.

The College Library has recently been enriched by a gift of upwards of 1,000 volumes, from Miss Julia Wedgwood, of London, being, we understand, the philological portion (together with a few works of a general character) of the library of her father, the late Hensleigh Wedgwood, Esq., M.A. The gift will be known as the "Hensleigh Wedgwood Collection," and is one of the most valuable and important the library has yet received. The value of the gift has been considerably enhanced by reason of the donor generously defraying the cost of binding, repairing, &c., of the entire collection. A general idea of the wide range of the collection may be gathered from the fact that it contains works in or upon the following languages:—Greek, Modern Greek, Latin, French (including works in the various *patois*), Provençal, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Romansch, Wallachian, Icelandic, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Gothic, Anglo-Saxon, English (including many works on the county and district dialects), Frisic, Dutch, Flemish, German, Irish, Gaelic, Manx, Welsh, Breton, Basque, Lithuanic, Lettish, Russian, Polish, Bohemian, Lappish, Finnish, Esthonian, Hungarian, Albanian, Arabic, Sanskrit, Chinese, Japanese, and Coptic; the Australian and Polynesian group of languages being represented by a New Zealand Dictionary. It also contains sets of the Early English Text Society's publications (including the valuable Extra Series), from the commencement to the end of 1889; the English Dialect Society's publications, nearly complete, to same date; and the Proceedings and Transactions, and extra volumes, of the Philological Society, from the commencement to 1890.

The library has been in existence just over eleven years, and already contains nearly 22,000 volumes, upwards of 18,000 of which have been presented.

In Memoriam: Ernest Chester Thomas.

IT was with deep sorrow that our members heard a short time since, of the death of their friend and colleague, E. C. THOMAS. The sad illness which shadowed his life during the last year or so increased in severity, and during the last few months his once bright intellect became quite darkened. It seems but the other day that we saw him in full mental and bodily vigour, taking the most lively interest, not only in the Association, but in every matter connected with practical librarianship, and literary questions of a more general character. His ripe scholarship, wide reading, lively wit, ready pen, and great business faculties, were for many years most generously devoted to the Library Association, for whose interest he worked unceasingly and ungrudgingly. But those who knew him best will prefer to remember, not the mere scholar and man of letters, but the sincere and tender-hearted friend, the bright companion, the honourable English gentleman.

ERNEST CHESTER THOMAS was born at Birkenhead, 28th October, 1850, and was the son of Mr. John Thomas, latterly of Bent House, Prestwich, near Manchester, the senior partner in a well-known firm of accountants. Ernest Thomas was educated at the Manchester Grammar School under Mr. F. W. Walker, who, speaking of his pupil in after years, said: "From boyhood he has taken a lively interest in the artistic side of ancient literature, and in philological science." Mr. Walker laid "especial stress on his industry, his mental vivacity, and his power of expression." Thomas, at a very early age, devoted himself to literary composition, and gained one of the prizes offered by the editor of the *Boys' Own Magazine*. In January, 1870, he was elected to an Open Classical Scholarship, at Trinity College, Oxford; where he afterwards obtained a First Class in Classical Moderations, and a Second Class in the Final School of *Literæ Humaniores*. He proceeded to his degree in June, 1875, but did not take up the M.A. The late President

of Trinity, the Rev. S. W. Wayte, B.D., says, that Thomas "bore a thoroughly good character while he was a resident at Oxford;" he had "much ability, and took a warm interest in the pursuits to which he has devoted himself." Mr. J. Ashton Cross, with whom he read, was well acquainted with Thomas. In his time, "Oxford has turned out few men of equal quickness and power. In the Final Classical School, indeed, he took only a Second Class; but he spent much time in studies outside the Oxford Course." "From what I saw of him, however," continues Mr. Cross, "first as a pupil, and afterwards as Librarian of the Union, and when engaged in literary pursuits, I know well how far superior he is to many First Class men among my pupils, both in scholarship, and in general ability."

In May, 1875, Thomas was elected to the Bacon Scholarship of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn, after an examination in general and constitutional history. His studies on the latter subject led him to publish "*Leading Cases in Constitutional Law briefly stated*" (1876), dedicated by permission to Sir John Holker, the Attorney-General. The writer endeavoured to present the essence of all cases of constitutional law with which the student might be expected to be familiar. A second edition was printed in 1885. Thomas proposed to bring out a similar work on the State trials, and on what he styled "the Criminal Judicature of Parliament," but the project was never carried into effect. In Michaelmas Term, 1876, he gained a prize of Twenty Guineas, offered by Archdeacon Hessey, preacher of Gray's Inn, to the students of the society, for knowledge of the first book of Hooker's "*Ecclesiastical Polity*," and of Bishop Butler's "*Three Sermons on Human Nature*." In 1875 and 1876, Thomas studied abroad—at Jena and Bonn—and attained an excellent knowledge of German literature. On his return to England, he undertook a good deal of private teaching. In 1877, he produced the first volume of a translation of F. A. Lange's important philosophical work, "*Geschichte des Materialismus*." The second volume was delayed to 1880, and the third and last volume did not appear until 1881. Thomas entered upon his laborious task with his usual light heart, but the drudgery consequent upon so long and monotonous a piece of work had a most depressing effect upon his spirits. In 1878, Messrs. Stevens and Haynes published for him, "*Leading Statutes summarised for the use of Students*," a useful little book, intended as a guide for law students to the most important chapters of the statute book.

Thomas was not one of those who met at the London Library on April 9th, 1877, when it was resolved that an International Conference of Librarians should be held in the autumn of that year, but at a later period he became a member of the Organizing Committee, and took an active part in its work. The conference took place on October 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1877, and the Library Association of the United Kingdom was then founded. Mr. Nicholson found himself obliged to resign his office of joint Secretary of the Association, and in 1878 Thomas became one of the Secretaries—an office which he held for twelve years. Thomas's first work for the Association was to take a share in the arrangements preparatory to the first Annual Meeting of the Library Association, held at Oxford, in the rooms of the Union Society, October 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1878. He read a paper on "The Libraries of Oxford, and the uses of College Libraries," full of excellent practical suggestions; and one on "A proposed Index to Collectaneous Literature," being those volumes, and series of volumes, of essays, original, or republished, that have become so notable a feature of modern authorship. This was one of the many unaccomplished schemes which he was never tired of putting forth. About this time he was a candidate for the Hughes Professorship of Classics, Comparative Philology and Literature in the University of Adelaide, South Australia. He received some excellent testimonials from various influential persons, but was not successful, as the chair was given to a gentleman living in the Colony. I cannot help thinking that in this he was unfortunate. What Thomas most wanted, was a sense of responsibility, compelling him to a routine of duties, which would have obliged him to refrain from pursuing the thousand-and-one literary projects, for which he was always so fond of relinquishing more remunerative work. He was an admirable and stimulating teacher; and for two years had taught, with much success, advanced classics, law, and constitutional history, to the pupils of an Army and Civil Service coach. This gentleman spoke very highly of Thomas, as a man "of untiring energy, with a greater capacity for work than any man I remember to have met with, scrupulously faithful to his engagements, and in every sense a valuable and agreeable coadjutor."

In September, 1879, the Association held their second Annual Meeting at Manchester, Thomas's home-place; and those members old enough to remember a period so remote as the

date of this gathering, will recollect how pleasant it was, and how well attended by the leading citizens of that book-loving city and its sister, Salford. At the Edinburgh meeting in October, 1880, Thomas had a new colleague, in the person of Mr. Charles Welch (at that time sub-librarian at the Corporation Library, Guildhall), who continued to share the office down to the time of the Cambridge meeting in 1882.

He was called to the Bar, 29th June, 1881, having been a student of Gray's Inn since 7th May, 1874. In 1882 appeared, in the 14th volume of the new edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, an article on "Libraries," by Thomas and the present writer, who made some progress in a "Library Handbook," based on the very extensive materials accumulated by them in course of compilation. The *Monthly Notes of the Library Association* was one of the several periodicals which owe their existence to our search after an abiding organ. It was conducted, during the years 1880 and 1881, by the late William Brace. Thomas succeeded him in 1882; and in the number for December, 1883, in an account of his editorship, he announced that the general plan of the periodical would be followed in a more ambitious magazine. The first number of the *Library Chronicle, a Journal of Librarianship and Bibliography*, appeared in January, 1884. The editor contributed two articles to the opening number, and, as editors have experienced before and since, he soon found that the only contributor on whom he could rely with entire confidence, was himself. Thomas ran the *Chronicle* at his own risk, and entirely as a labour of love. The literary side of the undertaking was no trouble to him; but the commercial details, and the worries of the advertising columns, brought neither intellectual nor pecuniary profit. The journal came to an untimely end in 1888. In this year he, unfortunately, undertook another weighty piece of translation from the German—a version of Professor Rein's "Japan." Each sheet of the English text was revised by the author. Owing to the numerous demands upon Thomas's time, he was obliged to leave the completion of the volume to another hand.

It had long been his wish to bring out a critical edition of Richard de Bury's "Philobiblon," of which the printed text was extremely faulty; and he read at various monthly meetings, and printed in the *Library Chronicle*, a number of interesting and learned papers, preparatory to the publication, in 1888, of his admirable edition of the "Philobiblon," the book on which his

claim to successful scholarship may fairly stand. The new text is based upon the early editions and a personal examination of twenty-eight manuscripts, and the notes clear up most of the obscurities which have embarrassed successive editors and translators. The translation is exact, and written in a terse and well-balanced style. The bibliography is a model of careful research. Book-lovers of all countries owe a debt of sincere gratitude for this handsome and valuable edition of a work, which has been more often quoted than perhaps any other book about books. It is an illustration of Thomas's thoroughness and conscientiousness, that a later investigation led him to doubt the real authorship ; and he circulated a few copies of a pamphlet, in which the fair literary fame of Richard de Bury was questioned. Between 1882 and 1887 Thomas was the sole Secretary of the Association, and bore on his shoulders the responsibility of conducting its affairs during the dark period of financial trouble. In 1887 he obtained the valuable co-operation, as joint Secretary, of Mr. Mac Alister, who gradually assumed the entire burden of the administrative work. At the Reading Meeting in 1890 he finally quitted the office of Secretary, and was elected a Vice-president of the Association.

For seventeen or eighteen years, Thomas occupied various sets of chambers within the gloomy precincts of Gray's Inn. A sincere book-lover, but no disdainer of humble editions in modest garb, his somewhat miscellaneous library bore testimony to the successive interests which from time to time occupied him. His school and university career was represented by editions of the classics. Lange, and his studies at Bonn and Jena, added philosophical treatises and German books. His legal work largely increased the population of his shelves. The Library Association brought a vast mass of bibliography and library literature, and Richard de Bury tempted him to buy dusty mediæval tomes. Poetry and fiction, however, were well represented. He was a hardened devourer of novels ; and possessed the rare art of reading poetry aloud with grace and rhythmical propriety.

During the last year or two, Thomas forsook law and letters for the city. Had his bodily strength equalled his mental vigour, his natural capacity for affairs would, doubtless, have enabled him to have made his mark in business, but an attack of typhoid fever some years before had undermined his constitution. His relatives and friends observed, with much concern, that his health was declining. His illness took a very severe shape,

and he died in his forty-second year at Tunbridge Wells, on February 5th, 1892.

In this brief and imperfect tribute to the memory of a departed friend, I have said nothing of his career at the bar. He had a small, but growing practice; but his sympathies with contentious proceedings was feeble. Not that he failed in the gifts of an advocate, for he was always full of fight and readiness. His special interest in legal studies was, however, with their philosophical and antiquarian aspects. In his short life, he may be said to have played many parts, and all parts without discredit. His mind was unusually sensitive to new ideas and new impressions; and this fatal gift caused him to welcome, and attempt to give definite form to every new project which presented itself. He once showed me a little book which contained, neatly arranged in his vigorous and characteristic penmanship, a long list of future schemes, literary and commercial, all of which exemplified his usual shrewdness and practical adroitness. One of the unrealised ideals of the Association, in its early days, was the modest proposal of a General Catalogue of English Literature; and Thomas spent weeks at the British Museum compiling letter Q of this catalogue. Another work, upon which he was occupied during many years, was an elaborate "Dictionary of Historic Sayings;" of which it is to be hoped that the manuscript materials, including some most interesting discoveries of the origin of many well-known sayings, may not be lost to the world. The services which he rendered to the Association, and to the cause of Libraries, cannot be overestimated. The titles of his books and miscellaneous contributions, show that his life was not an idle one. Everything that he wrote exhibits wide culture, thorough grasp of the subject he treated, great acuteness, and the possession of a graceful and correct style. The words that Shakespeare put in the mouth of Griffith, when, in speaking of the great cardinal, he said:—

"He was a scholar, and a ripe and good one;
Exceeding wise, fair spoken and persuading,"

well picture Thomas, who, though not "Lofty and sour to them that loved him not," was to all men, as well as those "that sought him, sweet as summer." A brilliant talker and admirable speaker in public, his chief social charm was conspicuous in the pleasant give-and-take of familiar conversation. It will be

long before we shall forget the slight form moving with hurried step, the bright glance, the ready smile, the flash of wit or wisdom which illuminated the face of him who, for so many years, was a leading spirit among us. In his brief career, too early closed, he made many warm friends; and all of them will join with me in a wish to keep green the memory of ERNEST CHESTER THOMAS.

H. R. T.

The following are the titles of books, either written, edited, or translated by Thomas, together with a list of his contributions to periodicals and other publications.

I.—BOOKS.

Leading cases in Constitutional Law briefly stated; with introduction, excurses, and notes, by E. C. Thomas. London: Stevens & Haynes, 1876, 8vo, pp. xv. 96. Second edition. London: Stevens & Haynes, 1885, 8vo, pp. xvi. 123.

History of Materialism and criticism of its present importance; by Frederick Albert Lange. Authorized translation by E. C. Thomas. London: Trübner & Co., vol. i, 1877, pp. xx. 330; vol. ii, 1888, pp. viii. 397; vol. iii. 1881, pp. viii. 376.

Leading Statutes summarised for the use of Students; by E. C. Thomas. London: Stevens & Haynes, 1878, 8vo, pp. xi. 128.

Transactions and Proceedings of the First Annual Meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, held at Oxford, October 1, 2, 3, 1878; edited by the Secretaries, H. R. Tedder, Librarian of the Athenæum Club, and E. C. Thomas, late Librarian of the Oxford Union Society. London: Chiswick Press, 1879, Large 8vo, pp. viii. 191.

Transactions and Proceedings of the Second Annual Meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, held at Manchester, September 23, 24, and 25, 1879; edited by the Secretaries, Henry R. Tedder and E. C. Thomas. London: Chiswick Press, 1880, Large 8vo, pp. x. 184.

Transactions and Proceedings of the Third Annual Meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, held at Edinburgh, October 5, 6, and 7, 1880; edited by the Secretaries, E. C. Thomas and C. Welch. London: Chiswick Press, 1881, Large 8vo, pp. x. 201.

Transactions and Proceedings of the Fourth and Fifth Annual Meetings of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, held in London, September, 1881, and at Cambridge, September, 1882; edited by the Secretary, E. C. Thomas. London: Chiswick Press, 1884, Large 8vo, pp. x. 258.

Transactions and Proceedings of the Library Association of the United Kingdom at their Sixth Annual Meeting, held at Liverpool, September, 1883; edited by the Hon. Secretary, Ernest C. Thomas. London: J. Davy & Sons, 1886, Large 8vo, pp. vii. 204.

Transactions and Proceedings of the Library Association of the United Kingdom at their Seventh Annual Meeting, held at Dublin, September 30 and October 1, 2 and 3, 1884; edited by the Hon. Secretary, E. C. Thomas. London: Chiswick Press, 1890, Large 8vo, pp. 164.

Proceedings of the Library Association of the United Kingdom at their Eighth Annual Meeting, held at Plymouth, September 15 to 18, 1885; edited by the Hon. Secretary, E. C. Thomas. London: J. Davy & Sons, 1890, Large 8vo, pp. 37.

Monthly Notes of the Library Association of the United Kingdom; edited by E. C. Thomas. London: Trübner & Co., 1882-3, vols. iii. and iv., 2 vols., 8vo.

The Library Chronicle: a journal of Librarianship and Bibliography; edited by E. C. Thomas. London: J. Davy & Sons, 1884-88, vols. 1-5, Large 8vo.

Japan, Travels and Researches undertaken at the cost of the Prussian Government by J. J. Rein, professor of geography in Marburg. Translated from the German. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1884, Large 8vo, pp. x. 534.

Was Richard de Bury an Impostor? by E. C. Thomas. London: J. Davy & Sons, 1888, Small 8vo, pp. 12 (also reprinted in *Library*, vol. i, 1889).
The Philobiblon of Richard de Bury, bishop of Durham, treasurer and

chancellor of Edward III. Edited and translated by E. C. Thomas. London: Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., 1888, Small 8vo, pp. lxxxv. 259, also large paper (only 50 copies).

II.—CONTRIBUTIONS TO PERIODICALS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS.

The Libraries of Oxford and the Uses of College Libraries. (In *Transactions of the First Annual Meeting L.A.U.K. Oxford*, 1878. London, 1879, Large 8vo.)

Proposed Index to Collectaneous Literature. (In *Transactions of the First Annual Meeting, Oxford*, 1878. London, 1879, Large 8vo.)

Review of the Transactions of the London Conference. (In *Academy*, May 18, 1878, also *Library Journal*, 1878, p. 195.)

A Proposed Subject-Index to Bibliologies and Bibliographies. (Jointly with H. B. Wheatley. In *Monthly Notes of the Library Association*, vol. i., 1880.)

English Legal Bibliography. (In *Transactions of Annual Meeting at London*, September, 1881. London, 1884, Large 8vo.)

Prof. Dziatzko on the British Museum. (*Monthly Notes*, vol. iii. 1882.)

Library Statistics of Europe. (In *Monthly Notes*, vol. iii. 1882.)

A German Librarian on our Cataloguing Rules. (In *Monthly Notes*, vol. iii. 1882.)

On some recent Schemes of Classification. (In *Transactions of Annual Meeting at Cambridge*, 1882. London, 1884, Large 8vo.)

Libraries. (Jointly with H. R. Teder. In *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 1882, vol. xiv.)

The Distribution of Public Documents to Libraries in the United States. (In *Monthly Notes*, vol. iv. 1883.)

The New Bodleian Cataloguing Rules. (In *Monthly Notes*, vol. iv. 1883.)

Classed catalogues and the new classed catalogue of the German Reichsgericht. (In *Monthly Notes*, vol. iv. 1883.)

Public Libraries and the Promulgation List. (In *Monthly Notes*, vol. iv. 1883.)

The raising of the Library Rate. (In *Monthly Notes*, vol. iv. 1883.)

The Future of Monthly Notes. (In *Monthly Notes*, vol. iv. 1883.)

The popular Libraries of Paris. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. i. 1884.)

The new building at the British Museum. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. i. 1884.)

A year's work at the British Museum. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. i. 1884.)

The Royal visit to Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Opening of the Public Libraries. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. i. 1884.)

Richard de Bury and his Editors. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. i. 1884.)

The Classification of Literature. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. i. 1884.)

A French Library Journal. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. ii. 1885.)

The Libraries of London in 1710. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. ii. 1885.)

Richard de Bury and Thomas à Kempis. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. ii. 1885.)

Note on the Cataloguing of Manuscripts transl. from the original as published in the *Bulletin des Bibliothèques*. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. ii. 1885.)

Glasgow and the Libraries Act. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. ii. 1885.)

Free Public Libraries in 1884. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. ii. 1885.)

Lady John Manners, on Village Libraries. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. ii. 1885.)

The Manuscripts of the Philobiblon. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. ii. 1885.)

The distribution of Public Documents to Libraries, including a letter to the First Lord of the Treasury. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. ii. 1885.)

In Memoriam: Edward Edwards. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. iii. 1886.)

A Book on Free Public Libraries. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. iii. 1886.)

Letter to the *Athenæum* pointing out the inaccuracies in "Index to Obituary and Biographical Notices" in *Gentleman's Magazine*. (In *Library Journal*, November, 1886.)

Halkett and Laing's Dictionary of Anonymous and Pseudonymous Literature. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. v., 1888.)

Henry Bradshaw. (In *Library Chronicle*, vol. v., 1888.)

John Durie's *Reformed Librarie-Keeper* and its
Author's Career as a Librarian.

WE hope from time to time to present our readers with reprints of early treatises on library-work and its cognate subjects, and we think we can hardly begin better than with the letter of John Durie, to which Dr. Garnett called the attention of librarians, now eight years ago, in the first number of the *Library Chronicle*. So far as we are aware, Durie's letter has never been reprinted in full, and we propose here to preface it with a few notes on the Author's career as a librarian, for which the Calendars of State Papers offer some materials. Of Durie's long life—he was born in 1596 and did not die till 1680—we need concern ourselves with only a very few months. As we shall see, his employer Whitelock asserts that he was a German, but this is a mistake, for he was born in Edinburgh, although the persecuted life of his father, Robert Durie, caused him to be educated abroad, chiefly at Sedan. From an early period he devoted himself to the cause of religious unity among the Protestant Churches of Europe, and in this cause he laboured all his life, possibly with more zeal than wisdom. When he found how hardly religious unity was to be achieved he was ready, we are told, to regard the acceptance of the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed and the Ten Commandments as the sole requirement for intercommunion. In the seventeenth century this certainly amounted to latitudinarianism, and it is not easy to acquit Durie of a disposition to run both with hare and hounds, which did not escape the observation of his contemporaries. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was a Royalist and acted for some time as Chaplain to the Princess Mary of Orange at the Hague. But he wearied of this employment, returned to England, served the Commonwealth, both as librarian and as literary hack in offices peculiarly distasteful to the Royalists, and yet after the Restoration did not fail to endeavour to explain away his defection. A political

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comprehensiveness such as this may perhaps explain the reason why, despite his journeyings all over the north of Europe, Durie's efforts after religious unity so signally failed to attract theologians of any party. The believers in black and the believers in white will hardly admire the man who adopts grey as the only wear, and endeavours to make it serve for each in turn.

2. The excellence of Durie's treatise on library-management speaks for itself, but it seems not altogether unlikely that it was composed for the special purpose of the Author's advancement. It is prefaced by a short letter by Samuel Hartlib, the friend of Milton, and Durie, as we shall see, shortly afterwards was employed to translate Milton's *Eiconoclastes* into French. On August 5, 1650 (the year in which the *Reformed Librarie-Keeper* was published), Durie had been granted liberty by the Council of State, to which Milton was Latin Secretary, to abide in the Commonwealth, and on August 21 this grant was confirmed by warrant "granting license to Mr. Durie to stay in England till further order, on security for good behaviour." Now some weeks before this the Council of State had taken into consideration what should be done with the Royal Collections of books, manuscripts and medals, and had resolved to appoint Whitelocke their keeper, and to allow him the services of an Assistant. If Durie's *Reformed Librarie-Keeper* was written at this juncture, at the suggestion of Milton and Hartlib in order to forward his claims to the Assistant-ship, it was certainly very well-timed, and it is not unlikely that this was actually the case. Whitelocke's account of the matter, under date July 30, 1650, is as follows:

July 30. Referred to the Council of State to preserve the books and medals at St. James's from imbezzlement.

After this Order past, the Council propounded it to me, whether I would take upon me the Charge and Care of these precious Medals and Books, and to be the Library-Keeper, and to appoint whom I thought fit to look to them under me.

I knew the greatness of the charge, and considered the prejudice that might fall out, by being responsible for those rich jewels, the imbezzlement whereof would be attempted by many, and my other occupations would not permit me to give much personal attendance on this business, nor to enjoy much of the delight of perusing them.

Yet I, being informed of a design in some to have them sold and transported beyond sea, which I thought would be a dishonour and a damage to our nation, and to all scholars therein, and fearing that in

other hands they might be more subject to imbezzeing, and being willing to preserve them for publick use, I did accept of the trouble of being Library-Keeper at St. James's, and therein was encouraged and much persuaded to it by Mr. Selden, who swore that if I did not undertake the charge of them—all those rare Monuments of Antiquity, those choice Books and Manuscripts would be lost, and there were not the like to them, except only in the Vatican, in any other Library in Christendom.

The Council made an order for me to be Library-Keeper of St. James's, and to have lodgings in the house belonging to the place, and recommended to me Mr. Duery, a German by birth, a good scholar, and a great traveller and friend to the Parliament, to be my Deputy in that place, but at my liking.

I was willing to have a Deputy by their recommendation, being thereby I should be the less answerable, and I appointed Mr. Duery to have the keys, to go to Mr. Patrick Young the former Library-Keeper to the late King, to inquire for an inventory of the Books and Medals, and to see an exact one made forthwith of all of them.—*Whitelocke's Memorials*, p. 416.

Whitelocke's narrative, though under date July 30, of course embraces also the events of the subsequent months. As the following entries from its Calendar of State Papers for 1650 will show, Durie did not receive his appointment till the following October :

Oct. 28.—24. John Durie appointed Library-Keeper of the books at St. James's, as also of the medals, and to have the lodgings belonging to that place, and to make an inventory of the books, medals and MSS., and present it to Council.

Oct. 29.—1. Mr. Dury to be Library-Keeper at St. James's House, and Col. Berkstead to appoint convenient lodgings for him.

Nov. 7.—2. The new chapel at St. James's to be used as a library, and Mr. Durie to take care that the books and medals be removed there as soon as it is finished.

Nov. 21.—12. Lord Commissioner Lisle, Sir Hen. Vane, and Mr. Challoner added to the Committee formerly appointed for the library—viz., Lord Commissioner Whitelock, Visct. Lisle, and Sir Gilbert Pickering ; Mr. Dury, the Library-Keeper, is to apply to them upon all emergencies, and receive instructions for the safe preservation of the library and medals, and to prepare directions to be given to the surveyor of the works for fitting the new chapel for the use of a library.

We hear no more of Durie till May 20th, 1651, when the Council of State ordered him "to proceed in translating Mr. Milton's book, written in answer to the late King's book, and Mr. Frost to give him such fit reward for his pains as he shall think fit." In the following October we have this interesting entry which shows that he was by no means neglectful of his duties.

Oct. [6?]-56. John Dury, Library-Keeper at St. James's, to the Council of State. The books and manuscripts will be utterly spoiled if not immediately looked after, as they lie upon the floor in confused heaps, so that not only the rain and dust, but the rats, mice, and other vermin can easily get at them, and none of these inconveniences can be prevented, unless you order the trustees for sale of the late King's goods to deliver me the keys.

The trustees long since made a catalogue of the books, and an inventory of the médals, so that there is nothing more left for them to do, and they might therefore be also desired to deliver up such catalogues and inventory; if there should be anything to complete, I am willing to assist them therein, so that the work may not linger, and the library be utterly spoiled, and remain useless to the public. [One page.]

This is the last entry we have concerning Durie as a librarian. His translation (published in 1652) of "Mr. Milton's book written in answer to the late King's book" *i.e.* the *Eiconoclastes*, was brought to a completion, and there is an Order in Council that no custom duty should be charged upon its export. Then we have Durie's petition for his fee for the translation, and then he goes off to Sweden with Whitelocke, his rooms at St. James's are assigned to another, and our interest in him sensibly wanes.

3. The title page of Durie's tiny pamphlet runs as follows: The | Reformed | Librarie-Keeper | with a supplement to the | Reformed School, | as subordinate to Colleges in | Universities. | By | John Durie | whereunto is added | I. An idea of Mathematicks. II. The description of one of the chiefest | Libraries which is in Germanie, erected | and ordered by one of the most Learned | Princes in Europe. | London | Printed by William Du-Gard, and are | to bee sold by Robert Littleberrie at the | sign of the Unicorn in Little | Britain. 1650.

The supplement to the Reformed School comes first and our tract is preceded by a false title of its own: The | Reformed | Librarie- | Keeper. | By | JohnDurie | [Device of Fleur-de-Lys.] London | Printed by William Du-Gard, | Anno Dom. 1650. The two letters are preceded by Hartlib's preface, and followed by the two appendices mentioned on the title page, neither of which, in all likelihood, is by Durie himself. Of the two letters only the first is here reprinted, the second being a mere feeble repetition of it clothed in religious phraseology. The one here given is to some extent marred by Durie's riding to death of the metaphor of "trading" for exchange of information. Despite this fault it is full of excellent sense, and shows throughout a lofty sense of the functions of a librarian. We reprint it here as

it stands, with a careful retention of the original spelling and punctuation.

THE
REFORMED LIBRARIE-KEEPER:

OR
Two Copies of Letters concerning the Place and Office of a Librarie-Keeper.

THE FIRST LETTER.

The Librarie-Keeper's place and office, in most countries (as most other Places and Offices both in Churches and Universities) are lookt upon, as Places of profit and gain, and so accordingly sought after and valued in that regard; and not in regard of the service, which is to bee don by them unto the Common-wealth of Israëll, for the advancement of Pietie and Learning; for the most part men look after the maintenance, and livelihood settled upon their Places, more then upon the end and usefulness of their employments; they seek themselves and not the Publick therein, and so they subordinate all the advantages of their places, to purchase mainly two things thereby viz. an easie subsistence; and som credit in comparison of others; nor is the last much regarded, if the first may bee had; except it bee in cases of strife and debate, wherein men are over-heated: for then indeed som will stand upon the point of Honor, to the hazard of their temporal profits; but to speak in particular of Librarie-Keepers, in most Universities that I know; nay indeed in all, their places are but Mercenarie, and their employment of little or no use further, then to look to the books committed to their custodie, that they may not bee lost or embezeled by those that use them, and this is all. I have been informed that in Oxford (where the most famous Librarie now extant amongst the Protestant-Christians is kept), the settled maintenance of the Librarie-Keeper is not above fiftie or sixtie pound *per annum*; but that it is accidentally, *viis et modis* sometimes worth an hundred pound: what the accidents are, and the waies by which they com, I have not been curious to search after; but I have thought, that if the proper employments of Librarie-Keepers were taken into consideration as they are, or may bee made useful to the advancement of Learning; and were ordered and maintained proportionally to the ends, which ought to bee intended thereby; they would bee of exceeding great use to all

sorts of Scholars, and have an universal influence upon all the parts of Learning, to produce and propagate the same unto perfection. For if Librarie-Keepers did understand themselves in the nature of their work, and would make themselves, as they ought to bee, useful in their places in a publick waie; they ought to becom Agents for the advancement of universal Learning: and to this effect I could wish, that their places might not bee made, as euerie-where they are, Mercenarie, but rather Honorarie; and that with the competent allowance of two hundred pounds a year, som employments should bee put upon them further then a bare keeping of the books. It is true that a fair Librarie, is not onely an ornament and credit to the place where it is; but an useful commoditie by itself to the publick; yet in effect it is no more then a dead Bodie as now it is constituted, in comparison of what it might bee, if it were animated with a publick spirit to keep and use it, and ordered as it might bee for public service. For if such an allowance were settled upon the employment as might maintain a man of parts and generous thoughts, then a condition might bee annexed to the bestowing of the Place; that none should be called thereunto but such as had approved themselves zealous and profitable in som publick waies of Learning to advance the same, or that should bee bound to certain tasks to bee prosecuted towards that end, whereof a List might bee made, and the waie to trie their abilities in prosecuting the same should be described, least in after times, unprofitable men creep into the place, to frustate the publick of the benefit intended by the Doners towards posteritie. The proper charge then of the Honorarie Librarie-Keeper in an Universitie should bee thought upon, and the end of that Imploiment, in my conception, is to keep the publick stock of Learning, which is in Books and Manuscripts, to increas it, and to propose it to others in the waie which may bee most useful unto all; his work then is to bee a Factor and Trader for helps to Learning, and a Treasurer to keep them, and a dispenser to applie them to use, or to see them well used, or at least not abused; and to do all this, first a *Catalogue*, of the Treasure committed unto his charge is to bee made, that is all the Books and Manuscripts, according to the Titles whereunto they belong, are to bee ranked in an order most easie and obvious to bee found, which I think is that of Sciences and Languages; when first all the Books are divided into their *subjectam materiam* whereof they Treat, and then everie kinde of

matter subdivided into their several Languages ; and as the Catalogue should bee so made, that it may alwaies bee augmented as the stock doth increas ; so the place in the Librarie must bee left open for the increas of the number of Books in their proper Seats, and in the Printed Catalogue, a Reference is to bee made to the place where the Books are to bee found in their Shelves or repository. When the stock is thus known and fitted to bee exposed to the view of the Learned World, then the waie of Trading with it, both at home and abroad, is to bee laid to heart both for the increas of the stock, and for the improvement of it to use. For the increas of the stock both at home and abroad, correspondencie should bee held with those that are eminent in everie Science, to Trade with them for their profit, that what they want and wee have, they may receiv upon condition, that what they have and wee want, they should impart in that facultie wherein their eminence doth lie ; as for such as are at home eminent in anie kinde, becaus they may com by Native right to have use of the Librarie-Treasure, they are to be Traded withal in another waie, viz. that the things which are gained from abroad, which as yet are not made common, and put to publick use should bee promised and imparted to them for the increas of their private stock of knowledge, to the end that what they have peculiar, may also bee given in for a requital, so that the particularities of gifts at home and abroad, are to meet as in a Center in the hand of the Librarie-Keeper, and hee is to Trade with the one by the other, to caus them to multiplie the publick stock, whereof hee is a Treasurer and Factor.

Thus hee should Trade with those that are at home and abroad out of the Universitie, and with those that are within the Universitie, hee should have acquaintance to know all that are of anie parts, and how their view of Learning doth lie, to supplie helps unto them in their faculties from without and from within the Nation, to put them upon the keeping of correspondencie with men of their own strain, for the beating out of matters not yet elaborated in Sciences ; so that they may bee as his Assistants and subordinate Factors in his Trade and in their own for gaining of knowledg : Now because in all publick Agencies, it is fit that som inspection should bee had over those that are intrusted therewith, therefore in this Factorie and Trade for the increas of Learning, som tie should bee upon those Librarie-Keepers to oblige them to carefulness.

would then upon this account have an Order made that once in the year the Librarie-Keeper should bee bound to give an Account of his Trading, and of his Profit in his Trade (as in all humane Trades Factors ought, and use to do to their principals at least once a year), and to this effect I would have it ordered, that the chief Doctors of each facultie of the Universitie should meet at a Convenient time in a week of the year to receive the Accounts of his Trading, that hee may shew them wherein the stock of Learning hath been increased for that year's space ; and then he is to produce the particulars which he hath gained from abroad, and laie them before them all, that everie one in his own facultie may declare in the presence of others that which hee thinketh fit to bee added to the publick stock, and made common by the Catalogue of Additionals, which everie year within the Universities is to be published in writing, within the Librarie itself, and everie three years (or sooner as the number of Additionals may bee great, or later, if it bee smal) to be put in Print and made common to those that are abroad. And at this giving up of the accounts, as the Doctors are to declare what they think worthie to bee added to the common stock of Learning, each in their Facultie ; so I would have them see what the Charges and Pains are whereat the Librarie-Keeper hath been, that for his encouragement the extraordinarie expences in correspondencies and transcriptions for the publick good may bee allowed him out of some Revenues, which should be set apart to that effect, and disposed of according to their joint consent and judgment in that matter. Here then hee should bee bound to shew them the Lists of his correspondents, the Letters from them in Answer to his, and the reckoning of his extraordinarie expence should bee allowed him in that which hee is indebted, or hath freely laid out to procure Rarities into the stock of Learning. And becaus I understand that all the Book-Printers or Stationers of the Common-wealth are bound of everie Book which is Printed to send a Copie into the Universitie Librarie ; and it is impossible for one man to read all the Books in all Faculties, to judg of them what worth there is in them ; nor hath everie one Abilitie to judg of all kinde of Sciences what everie Author doth handle, and how sufficiently ; therefore I would have at this time of giving accounts the Librarie-Keeper also bound to produce the Catalogue of all the Books sent unto the Universitie's Librarie by the Stationers that Printed them ; to the end that everie one of the Doctors in their own Faculties should declare, whether or

no they should bee added, and where they should bee placed in the Catalogue of Additionals ; for I do not think that all Books and Treaties, which in this age are Printed in all kindes, should bee inserted into the Catalogue, and added to the stock of the Librarie, discretion must be used and confusion avoided, and a cours taken to distinguish that which is profitable from that which is useless, and according to the verdict of that Societie, the usefulness of Books for the publick is to bee determined ; yet because there is seldom anie Books wherein there is not something useful, and Books freely given are not to bee cast away, but may bee kept ; therefore I would have a peculiar place appointed for such Books as shall bee laid aside to keep them in, and a Catalogue of their Titles made Alphabetically in reference to the Autor's name with a note of distinction to shew the Science to which they are to bee referred. These thoughts com thus suddenly into my head, which in due time may bee more fully described, if need bee, chiefly if, upon the ground of this account, som competencie should bee found out and allowed to maintein such charges as will bee requisite towards the advancement of the Publick good of Learning after this manner.



A Bibliography of Bookbinding.—III.

By MISS PRIDEAUX.

(*Continued from page 56.*)

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THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Public Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

BANCHORY.—An arrangement has been come to between the Public Library Committee and the managers of the John Watson Guild whereby the Library will be taken over by the Guild at an early date. The Library will then be located in the Town Hall, and will be open all day. An effort is to be made to clear off the debt remaining on the Library.

BELFAST.—The Linen Hall Library Committee have taken advantage of the occasion of the removal from the old premises in the Linen Hall to the new ones in Donegall Square North, to put before the public a short sketch of the history of the society since its foundation in 1788. At that time the population of Belfast was only 1,600, and the membership of the society, which was then known as the "Belfast Reading Society," was about a hundred in the memorable year of '98. It is now close on a thousand. The number of volumes on the shelves is over forty thousand.

BOLTON.—On February 11th a Local Government inquiry into the application of the Bolton Corporation for powers to borrow £1,000 for the erection of a new Free Lending Library was held at the Town Hall before General Crozier, R.E. The new library is intended to take the place of one now in use in Oxford street, but which has become inadequate to meet the requirements, and which is also said to be insanitary and unsafe. In stating the case to the Local Government Board Inspector, the Town Clerk (Mr. R. G. Hinnell) pointed out that the Council, by resolution, had limited the cost of the new library to £2,500, and that as there was a balance in hand on account of the library fund, £1,000 would be ample to borrow for the completion of the work. The one contemplated would make the fifth Free Public Library in the town, and the stock of books amounted altogether to over 70,000. The building will not entail any extra charge on the rates, as the contemplated site near the Town Hall belongs to the Corporation, and the rent of £60 per annum hitherto paid for the Oxford street premises will more than meet the interest and instalment repayment of the loan.

BRECHIN.—In the *Glasgow Evening Times*, under date of February 22nd, is a sketch of the Public Library now being erected at the corner of St. Ninian's square and Southesk street.

CARDIFF.—Mr. Ballinger, the public librarian, has suggested that the Library Committee should send the surplus newspapers and periodicals from the branch libraries to the men engaged in the four lighthouses and light ships in connection with the port of Cardiff. The suggestion has been well received.

CASTLEBAY.—A Public Library was opened at Castlebay on January 30th, by the Rev. James Chisholm, to meet the wants of the reading public of this important fishing centre. Father Chisholm, in declaring the Library open, said that, without including promised contributions from Lady Gordon Cathcart and the county member, Mr. Fraser-Macintosh, £30 had been collected, £11 16s. being subscribed by Mr. Carnegie, and with this sum the promoters had succeeded in getting together 320 volumes.

DARLINGTON.—At the quarterly meeting of the Town Council, held February 4th, the Sunday opening of the Public Library Reading Rooms, which had been undertaken as a trial, was recommended by the Library Committee to be continued. Alderman Sedgwick stated that there had been an average number of readers of 518 over the whole period that it had been opened. The recommendation was agreed to.

EDINBURGH.—The splendid pile of buildings, which have been in course of erection during the past eighteen months in the rear of the Parliament House by the S.S.C. Society for their Library and Council Hall, are rapidly approaching completion, and are expected to be ready for use by the members by the beginning of the summer session of this year (12th May).

JEDBURGH.—A public meeting was held in February to consider the question of the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts. It was pointed out that the rate of 1d. in the £ would only yield about £50! A Councillor called attention to Thurso having adopted the Acts. A committee was appointed to make inquiries in towns similar in size to Jedburgh where the Act had been adopted, after which the Provost will be asked to take the opinion of the ratepayers on the subject.

SHEFFIELD.—There was a pleasant gathering on February 26th, in the Mayor's Parlour of the Central Library, the occasion being the presentation of a handsome dressing-case to Mr. J. W. Lister, who is leaving the Central Library, where he has been an assistant for seven and a-half years, to become the librarian of a free public library which the Corporation of Hove (Brighton) are forming. Mr. Lister was successful out of fifty candidates.

SOUTHSEA.—On February 25th an inquiry was held by Colonel J. O. Hasted, R.E., inspector of the Local Government Board, in reference to an application by the Corporation for permission to borrow £600 for the purpose of a branch free library over the Southsea police-station.

TYNEMOUTH.—It is proposed to erect a new library building in Albion Street at a cost, including site, of between £12,000 and £15,000.

WALTHAMSTOW.—In February the inhabitants pronounced in favour of the adoption of the Public Libraries Act in this parish by 2,773 votes against 921, a majority of 1,852.

WEST BROMWICH.—In reply to an application by the librarian (Mr. Dickinson), to the Oxford University for a grant from the Clarendon

Press publications, the Convocation of the University have authorised the delegates of the Press to contribute books of the value of £25 to the West Bromwich Free Library.

NEW ZEALAND : AUCKLAND.—Sir George Grey is daily in the habit of visiting the Free Public Library, where a room is placed at his disposal, with a view of carrying out his arrangements for perfecting the Grey collection, to which he is still making valuable additions.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Ars moriendi, that is to saye the craft for to deye for the helthe of mannes sowle. Photolithograph of the unique and perfect copy printed about 1491 by William Caxton or Wynken de Worde, preserved in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. Issued, with an introductory note, by E. W. B. Nicholson, M.A., Bodley's librarian. London : Bernard Quaritch [1891], sm. 4to. Price 1s. 6d.

Ordine della solennissima processione fatta dal sommo pontefice nell' alma città di Roma per la felicissima nova della destruttione della setta Vgonotana. Photolithograph of this most rare pamphlet, printed at Rome in 1572, etc. (Same imprint.) Price 1s.

These two little books with the long titles are the first fruits of Mr. Nicholson's plan of reproducing some of the unique books in the Bodleian by photography and issuing the reprints in large numbers at the lowest possible price. The scheme is typical of the energetic librarianship of the present day, but it does not wholly command our sympathy. Save for the fact that it is a little more difficult to falsify a text in a photolithograph than an ordinary reprint, and that thus Mr. Nicholson's edition is not likely to pass for a Protestant forgery—save for this, we can see no advantage in the facsimile of the S. Bartholomew tract over an ordinary good reprint in modern type. The original is not well printed : in the Bodleian copy the first and last pages are blurred, and in the reproduction the two inner ones suffer so much by the process that they are very little better. In a word, as a piece of typography its original is poor, while the reproduction exaggerates its defects. Yet, unless a book is interesting typographically, we fail to see the utility of reproducing it in facsimile. Interesting in other ways the tract certainly is. The thanksgiving took place on September 8th, just fifteen days after the massacre, and the account of it was probably published in the same month. *Quod servorum tuorum fidem respiciens, gloriosam de perfidis gentibus populo catholico letitiam tribuisti* is the cause of thanksgiving to the Almighty alleged by the promoters, and it is not pleasant reading. But if Protestant controversialists may find their profit in Mr. Nicholson's second reprint, his first will be interesting both to good Catholics and to students of early printing. Caxton's types were not very beautiful, but everyone may be pleased to possess a specimen of them, and as black letter is far easier to reproduce than Roman types, this facsimile is very successful. It is printed on paper of which the whole sheet measures eighteen inches by twelve, the smallest size, according to Mr. Gordon Duff, which Caxton can be proved to have used. The size of the page (the margin is nearly

two-thirds the height of the print) is nine inches by six, which comes something between a modern medium octavo (9½ in. by 6) and a demy (8½ in. by 5½). The pamphlet, however, consists of two sheets, each folded twice, and placed one within the other, with the waterlines horizontal across its page. The first four leaves are signed Ai., Aii., Aiii., Aiiii., so that by the evidence both of shape and signatures a cataloguer would be tempted to enter the book as an octavo, the true size being only indicated by the water lines.

A Manual of Bibliography. By W. T. Rogers. Second edition. London: H. Grevel & Co., 1891, 8vo.

The second edition of Mr. Rogers' work is in many respects an improvement on its predecessor, of which, as our readers may remember, an account was given in this magazine under the title *Bibliography as she is Wrote*. For one thing, Mr. Rogers has now discovered that his book is founded upon a translation of Sig. G. Ottino's *Manuale di Bibliografia* (Milan, 1885), and that its illustrations are taken from the English edition of M. Henri Bouchot's *Le Livre*. The former discovery, at least, might have been made with better grace a year ago, but it is welcome, though late, and we have pleasure in adding that it is accompanied by the correction of most, if not all, of the more glaring errors which defaced the former edition. The select bibliography of works on printing is also enlarged, and evidently considerable pains have been taken to improve the manual as a whole. We are afraid that it still remains the work of a man who did not know very much about the history of printing, translated and enlarged by one who knew still less, but Mr. Rogers has learnt a good deal during the last few months, and if his book reaches a third edition it may become almost a good one.

Les livres à vignettes du XVe au XVIIIe siècle. Les livres à vignettes du XIXe siècle. Par Henri Bouchot, du Cabinet des Estampes. Paris: Edouard Rouveyre, 1891, 8vo, 2 tom. pp. 94, 102. 12 francs.

M. Henri Bouchot continues to write pretty little books which play happily round about their respective subjects without giving much definite information about them. They illustrate also what seems the central idea of M. Bouchot's artistic and bibliographical system, the theory, namely, that books, bindings and illustrations are all so many "documents" bearing upon contemporary history. If the document be trustworthy, if the artist in the present case copies the actual fashions of the day, then his work is valuable and to be praised; if not, M. Bouchot passes him by with contempt. For ourselves we would plead for liberty to admire a pretty vignette wherever we may find it and however the persons it represents may be dressed. That M. Bouchot's canon is far too narrow seems to us sufficiently proved by his illustrations, many of which, though doubtless interesting as documents, are not very attractive as pictures.

Syllabus of Reading for the Historical Tripos. Printed for the use of Members of St. John's College, Cambridge. October, 1891, 8vo, pp. 32.

The preface to this excellent Syllabus of Reading is signed by Messrs. J. Bass Mullinger and J. R. Tanner, the former of whom is already known by his very important bibliography in Part II. of Professor Gardiner's *Introduction to English History*. It is almost needless, therefore, to say

that the present Syllabus is admirable for the purpose for which it is intended. It is much to be wished that other lecturers would prepare similar annotated lists of books dealing with their special subjects. A volume of such lists would be not only a most valuable aid to University students, but also a groundwork for more popular lists for less advanced readers.

A descriptive List of Novels and Tales dealing with American city life. Compiled by W. M. Griswold. *Cambridge, Mass. : W. M. Griswold, 1891.* 8vo. pp. 120, 8.

A descriptive list of International Novels. Compiled by W. M. Griswold. (*Same imprint.*) pp. 164, 8.

These lists of classified novels, with brief extracts from press criticisms, may be taken, from one point of view, as an example of the manner in which modern librarians go out of their way to meet the wants of readers. From another point of view they may be regarded as a wily endeavour to diminish the run on new books by creating an artificial demand for old ones. There is something a little cold-blooded in Mr. Griswold's classification of novels according to their subject or scene, but as he continues to publish these lists it may be presumed that readers find them more useful than repellent. To the student of the statistics of literature they are certainly of considerable interest—an interest, we may add, by no means diminished by some delightful eccentricities of spelling. "Yet our philosopher consistently maintains that he does not want this hily attractive girl for himself" is the comment of an American reviewer on some passages between a disciple of Herbert Spencer and a charming heroine; and the comment certainly loses nothing from the way it is spelt.

The Library of Trinity College, Cambridge. By Robert Sinker, D.D. *Cambridge : Deighton, Bell & Co., 1891.* 8vo. pp. vii. 136.

Dr. Sinker has done well to reprint in an enlarged and revised form the substance of papers contributed to *Notes and Queries* some ten years ago. The Library over which he presides is possessed of treasures not sufficiently vast to beggar description, and yet interesting and important enough to furnish a subject for a very useful little monograph, which, indeed, has now been produced. Dr. Sinker begins with a brief history of the Library, both in its old buildings (finished in 1601) and in the more ample quarters which it now occupies, built between 1675 and 1693 from designs by Sir Christopher Wren and decorated with splendid carving by Grinling Gibbons. The next chapter is occupied with an account of the chief manuscripts in the possession of the College, which range from early Greek and Latin codices to the MS. of Thackeray's *Esmond*. Copies of *The Vision of Piers Plowman*, the *Cursor Mundi*, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, and Wyclif's version of the Bible, are among the chief treasures from Early English literature, while the Milton Papers, which include *Lycidas*, some of the sonnets and the notes made in preparation for *Paradise Lost* are of priceless value. About the incunabula and the English sixteenth century books, the subject of the next three chapters, the less may be said, inasmuch as Dr. Sinker has already done good service by publishing complete catalogues. Chapter VI. contains an interesting account of the Capell Collection, one of the finest Shakespearian libraries ever formed. A brief note on the circumstances which attended the presentation to the College of the Byron statue, for which the Dean and Chapter of Westminster refused to find room, brings to a close a most interesting little monograph.

Letters to the Editor.

THE BURNS CHRONICLE.

SIR,—In his introduction to the "Bibliography," in the recently-issued *Burns Chronicle*, Mr. Muir, the editor, thanks me for "looking over the proof-sheets." I regret much to find myself compelled to ask for space in the *Library* to say that I did not see any portion of the work until the book was issued to the public. I had promised to examine the proofs, and would have done so very willingly, but (owing, as Mr. Muir informs me, to pressure of time) they were not sent to me, and consequently I have no share whatever in the distinction which will always attach to this remarkable piece of "bibliography."

F. T. BARRETT.

The Mitchell Library, Glasgow.

COMPARATIVE LIBRARY STATISTICS.—A CORRECTION AND A WARNING.

SIR,—The fallaciousness of statistics has become proverbial. You have only to ignore circumstances altogether, and fix your eyes resolutely on figures with a definite object, the said object being to exalt yourself and disparage your neighbour, and without a doubt you will be able to get them to tell just what you want. An instance of this fascinating, but withal dangerous, game has just come under my notice, and will be found on page 8 of the Annual Report of the Halifax Public Library, just issued. There it will be seen that the Librarian has conceived the somewhat novel idea of estimating the worth of himself and his assistants by the number of books they issued, and the cost of each issue. Among the libraries selected to illustrate this wondrous thesis, the one which is under my charge has had the questionable honour of being included. It has not been my fortune to become personally acquainted with the Librarian of the Halifax Public Library, but judging by appearances I should say that if he has any humour in his composition at all he must be a bit of a wag—and a wag of a sly order. Not only does he get a little fun out of his committee by playing a joke upon them, but he conclusively proves to them that he is a librarian of transcendent merit. Nevertheless, I have somewhat against him. Not only does he omit to make any allowance for the special circumstances of the several libraries compared, though these are of the essence of the comparison, but so far as Aberdeen is concerned he makes a grievous slip in his figures. For the basis of his calculation he has taken a staff of eleven members (including the librarian and his assistants), when he should only have taken nine, or strictly speaking only eight and a half, these being all that were concerned with the issues dealt with; while from the salary fund from which he deduces the money value of these book distributors he should have struck off nearly £100 before making his calculation of cost per issue. This double error vitiates, of course, his whole return—to what extent I neither know nor care. I have no curiosity on the subject. My only curiosity is as to the mental constitution of one calling himself "Librarian," thinking it worth while to measure the value of the services of himself and his assistants by the number of books they hand over the library counters.

A. W. ROBERTSON.

Aberdeen Public Library.

MORE COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

SIR,—Yet another "Greatest Library in Britain!" In the Annual Report of the Halifax Public Library for 1891, it is stated on page 8 that, "as regards economy of management, the following extracted from reports just received may be interesting," and then are given figures showing that Halifax does double the work accomplished by Clerkenwell at one quarter the cost. I am sorry to have to give the most emphatic denial of the Halifax librarian's statement that any such figures are given in the Clerkenwell report, as he quotes; and I venture, subject to correction, to question if the other libraries, made to look small in the interesting comparison, published such figures either. At any rate, the Halifax librarian shows his constituents very plainly that as regards library management Halifax occupies the very first place. As it is just possible that other librarians may wish to magnify their annual operations by means of a little judicious arithmetical hanky-panky, perhaps I may be permitted to give a certain recipe for attaining this end. Take the totals of a few other libraries, without regard to possible qualifying factors or the existence of varying circumstances, and *boil* them down till they are devoid of backbone, and consequently in a fit state to compare unfavourably with your own figures. Never mind what other librarians think, but cherish only the local *éclat* certain to accrue. Then serve up hot to all the newspapers likely to comment on the comparison, and await with hope the prospect opened by such means of being one day called to a higher sphere on the strength of such credentials. As no enquiry was made at Clerkenwell if the figures given in the last report would bear the interpretation put upon them by the Halifax librarian, I feel perfectly justified in thus publicly contradicting the truth of the inferences and claims published in the Halifax report.

JAMES D. BROWN, *Librarian*.

Public Library, Clerkenwell, E.C.

THE GENERAL ELECTION AND THE LIBRARY QUESTION.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—As I consider that it is peculiarly desirable, in view of the general election, to ascertain that Parliamentary candidates are sound on the Library question, I have addressed a letter to the Liberal candidate for the district (Hampstead) in which I live asking for his views on the matter. The points which I pressed upon his attention were:—(1) the possibility of Government aid in poor neighbourhoods; and (2) the desirability of Government inspection for rate-supported libraries. Mr. J. C. Swinburne-Hanham replies:—"I certainly do recognise the importance of public libraries as educational necessities, and I can go further and say it is difficult to over-rate that importance. I am inclined to the view that the funds to support them should be found locally, and not by the Treasury, though if really efficient libraries were furnished and supplied as you suggest, I do not see why a small proportionate grant should not be made out of the Imperial taxes, or a portion of the Imperial taxes collected within the district refunded for this purpose. If this were so, some sort of inspection would be necessary to see the money was well spent. If I were in Parliament I should support any movement with the object of extending the Public Library Act that was reasonable."

EDWARD M. BORRAJO.

Guildhall Library.

AN AMERICAN OFFER.

SIR,—I have just mailed you a copy of our last report, one of the finding list, special list, and the bulletins to date. You have been placed on the regular mailing list for all future publications. I wish to enter into correspondence with some of the live English libraries, and especially to exchange reports, issues, &c. Have written to those noticed in your November number. Any assistance or attention you may be pleased to give me will be most gratefully acknowledged.

TESSA L. KELSO, *Librarian*.

Los Angeles Public Library, Cal.

We hope the "live" British librarians will promptly and cordially respond to this suggestion.—ED.

Library Catalogues.

[When not stated on the Catalogues sent for review, librarians will oblige by giving the price at which the Catalogue is sold to the public. Such information will prove serviceable to other librarians.]

Liverpool Free Public Libraries. A Subject-Catalogue of selected Technical Literature in the Reference Library and the Branch Lending Libraries. 1892. Small 8vo, pp. 32. Brevier, across page. Price one penny.

We learn that the bulk of the books contained in this list, which also means four copies of each, as the catalogue is made applicable to any of the Liverpool Free Libraries, has been purchased out of the share which fell to Liverpool under the Customs and Excise Duties Act, and to no better purpose could the money have been applied. The list is most carefully arranged under subjects, and forms an admirable guide to technical literature for a public library, and it will doubtless be freely distributed amongst librarians. We understand that a large edition is to be circulated in the workshops of Liverpool. It is to be hoped that Mr. Cowell will follow up this list with one of the important and valuable collection of technical books in the Reference Library, as this contains only those of that department which happen also to be in the branch libraries. Sir W. B. Forwood contributes a brief commendatory preface.

Bermondsey Public Library. Catalogue of the Books in the Lending and Reference Departments. Compiled by John Frowde. 1892. Small 4to, pp. viii, 152.

—— Catalogue of the Books in the Juvenile Lending Department. 1892. Royal 8vo, pp. 23. Both brevier in double columns.

These are very fair catalogues, but they bear many signs of having been prepared with undue haste, and the printing does not tend to add to the appearance, the type being worn-looking and full of wrong founts. The innovation introduced into this catalogue of setting out the chapter-headings of such works as Burton's *Scotland* and Thiers' *French Revolution* after the manner of contents of collected works is not desirable, and the purpose served by it is not very obvious; if adopted to any degree, a difficulty would quickly arise as to where the line should be drawn. It would appear by the shelf-numbers that such works are issued in not less

than two volumes at a time, evidently for the purpose of magnifying statistics. Synonymous headings should have been avoided to a greater extent. Thus, "Animals," "Natural History" and "Zoology" each contain books of precisely similar matter, though of varying titles. This fault is, however, largely mitigated by a good use of cross-references. On the other hand, to group books together upon national art, picture painting and house painting is incongruous and likely to prove misleading. There seems to be a lack of method in punctuation and a trifling want of uniformity in alphabetizing, because, if it is correct that O.K. in the one catalogue should lead off the letter, in the other A.L.O.E. should not be under Aloe. We have noted other slips, as, for instance, two Keith Johnstons treated as one, but none are of great moment, and may be easily accounted for by the seeming great pressure under which the work has been produced. We are the more inclined to attribute the faults to this cause because Mr. Frowde has in his Barrow Library catalogues given better evidence of his ability than in these under notice. The selection of books is an excellent one, particularly the juvenile list, and Bermondsey makes a good start. We are pleased to note the attention already paid to works upon its staple industry—tanning—no less than thirteen volumes being available for public use.

Library Association of the United Kingdom.

THE MARCH MONTHLY MEETING was held at the People's Palace, Mile End Road, on Friday, 18th March.

Mr. Joseph Gilbert took the chair, and there was a large attendance of members and visitors.

A letter was read from Mr. Mac Alister asking that the sum of £20 be devoted to the use of the Public Library Movement Committee, and it was, after some discussion, agreed to remit the matter to the Council, with a recommendation that the sum mentioned be granted.

In the absence of Miss James, through illness, her sister read "A Year's Work in the Palace Library, 1891." In this paper Miss James gave an interesting account of the operations of this great East End people's library.

We need not now do more than quote the first sentence of the paper :—

The year 1891 has perhaps been the most encouraging year spent in the Library, for not only has the number of readers been larger, but the class of books asked for has been better, and a larger number of women readers have made use of the Reading Room.

On the motion of Mr. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Tedder, and supported by Mr. Mason, hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Miss James for her paper, to her sister for reading it, and to the authorities at the Palace for their kind reception of the members.

Mr. Osborne, on behalf of the authorities of the Palace, expressed the pleasure they had in receiving the members.

The members were afterwards conducted over the Palace.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor, Advertisements and letters on Business to the Publisher, 20, Hanover Square, W.

Three Special Features of Free Library Work— Open Shelves, Women Readers, and Juvenile Departments.*

HAVING had occasion lately to look up information on some special points connected with library work, it occurred to me that a few brief notes on some of the subjects which came under observation might not be uninteresting to my fellow-librarians. I have therefore selected the three above-mentioned, in the hope that they may prove worthy of consideration. In doing so I am aware that two at least have been partly dealt with before, namely, the one on "Juvenile Libraries," by Mr. Briscoe, and "Open Shelves," by Mr. Foster; but of the third, "Facilities for Women Readers," I am not aware that it has hitherto been discussed. Since Mr. Briscoe's paper was read, many Juvenile Sections have been established throughout the country, and it may therefore be worth our while to follow up the development of this idea a little further than Mr. Briscoe was able to do. Mr. Foster's paper also was only confined to a description of the open shelves at Cambridge, and did not touch the general question, so that in this case there is a little room for additional information.

Open Reference Shelves.

As you are doubtless aware, these are simply open shelves containing collections of books placed in the reading room or some other convenient position, where the public can have free access to them. Generally speaking, the collections are composed of books of a purely reference character, such as Directories, Dictionaries, Gazetteers and the like; but in some instances, as in Cambridge, the books are of a more general nature, and are intended for the use of the casual reader as well as the seeker

* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Nottingham, September, 1891.

after information of a specific character. It is argued in their favour that they encourage those readers and seekers after information, who through diffidence or indifference would perhaps otherwise never come in contact with the books thus placed within their reach. This idea is probably based on the knowledge of the fact that many persons do not like to trouble the librarian a second time for information after the first application for a book has been made, and rather than make further requests they will go away without having procured the information required. Others are too indifferent to take the trouble of consulting a catalogue and filling up a form, and are content to pick up a newspaper or periodical instead, and ignore the books altogether. There can be little doubt that the system is in the main one likely to extend the usefulness of our library work. But although the balance of the evidence I have been able to gather from various sources is favourable to the scheme, yet some objections have been argued against it which should be noticed.

Mr. J. E. Foster, who read the paper on this subject at the Birmingham meeting, mentions two of them, namely, the absence of any record of the books used, and secondly, the probability of some of the books being stolen. There is also what appears to me a further objection, though not perhaps an important one; namely, that the books are subjected to a deal of unnecessary wear and tear. With regard to the first objection, the absence of any record, the difficulty might be minimised by telling off a junior assistant to note down for a week or fortnight the number and classification of the books consulted, the result of which could then be used as a basis of calculation for the yearly returns. The second objection must yield to the test of actual experience. I am informed by Mr. Mullins that although the system has been in operation at the Birmingham Central and Branch Libraries for three years, only two or three volumes have been lost. In Cambridge four volumes were lost last year, but taking the experience of the twenty previous years into account, only twenty volumes have disappeared, and even these were of slight pecuniary value. With the exception of Wigan, where Mr. Folkard informs me that only three volumes have been lost in twelve years, there is no information to hand as to the losses from other libraries; but if any have occurred, they have evidently been small enough to pass without remark. The other objection, that the books are subjected to unnecessary handling, is worthy of some consideration. When a person is

looking round for a book, he very often pulls ten or twenty volumes out of the shelves before he settles on one which suits him. This constant dragging of books from the shelves must result in a wear and tear which is altogether apart from and above that which would take place under the ordinary conditions of library usage, and the tendency will therefore be in the direction of wearing down the stock at a more rapid rate.

Cambridge has the honour of being the first to initiate this feature of Free Library work. The first book, a copy of Webster's Dictionary, was placed in the reading room in 1858, and additions have been made to the collection so rapidly that it now contains 1350 volumes. I had an opportunity some time ago of inspecting the books, and found that one half of them consisted of works of reference, and the other of books of a miscellaneous but attractive character. In accounting for the origin of the scheme Mr. Foster says, "The establishment of a Lending Department in 1858 led to more labour than could be accomplished by the Librarian and his assistant. Constant demands for such reference books as dictionaries and encyclopædias led to first one and then to others being shelved in the reading room, so that readers could help themselves, and so satisfactory did this method prove that other works were added from time to time." Twelve years ago a collection of this character was formed by the Wigan Free Library authorities, and at the present moment 500 volumes are placed in open shelves in the News-room, where the public are at liberty to help themselves to the books. Amongst these are to be found Chambers's Encyclopædia, a set of dictionaries of modern languages, Gazetteers and other works of general information; and in addition, sets of the principal English classics are included. Mr. Folkard informs me that he intends to largely extend this little Library at no distant date. Other Libraries have in like manner adopted the open shelf arrangement, and there is every reason to believe that in time it will cease to be a special feature of Library work. Through the courtesy of the Librarians concerned I am able to give the following particulars respecting the undermentioned places where open shelves are in use.

CLAPHAM.—Open shelves in Reference Department containing 150 books which are in constant request. They are chiefly Directories, Dictionaries, Cyclopædias, &c.

HALIFAX.—Cyclopædias, &c., together with volumes of illustrated journals and other works of a miscellaneous character.

RICHMOND.—Collection of 70 volumes since 1889. It is freely used, and no volumes are missing.

TYNEMOUTH.—Books consist of Dictionaries, Cyclopædias, Atlases, &c. A decreased issue of over 6,000 volumes in the Reference Department is attributed to the transfer of these books to the open shelves.

BIRMINGHAM.—Open shelves at Central Library and Constitution Hill, Gosta Green, and Deritend branches. Books consist of the usual Gazetteers, Dictionaries and Encyclopædias, and are intended more particularly for artisans. There are 500 volumes in the Central Library and about 150 in each branch. I am informed they are very well used, and that it is intended to increase the number of volumes.

The system is also in use at Warrington, and probably in other towns, but I am unable through lack of information to say anything concerning them.

I now turn to a different subject, namely, special facilities for women readers.

Women's Reading Rooms.

These are rooms set apart for the special use of women readers, and are usually supplied with periodicals supposed to be of a character suitable to the requirements of the visitors. There seems to be some difference of opinion amongst our authorities respecting the desirability of having separate rooms for the use of the gentler sex, but if the experience gained in our own institution at Bradford is of any weight, there really should be no two opinions on the matter. Before opening the separate room it was an uncommon thing to see a woman enter the general Reading-room, and whenever one did so, it was with the air of an intruder who felt her position, and who would very soon beat a retreat from what appeared to be an embarrassing situation. Since however the women's room was opened there has been no lack of visitors, the daily average of visits being over 260. We have now accommodation for 50 readers, in a room which is commanded by a counter in the Reference Library, and during the day it is rare indeed to find the room less than half full, while during the evenings most of the seats are occupied. It is always quiet and orderly, inasmuch as the interest displayed by readers in the newspapers and periodicals provided for them is more than sufficient to keep in subjection the natural conversational propensities of the sex. It may be useful to give a list of the publications laid on the tables of this room.

LONDON DAILY NEWSPAPERS.

Daily News.	Daily Graphic.	Standard.
Telegraph.	Times.	

PROVINCIAL DAILY NEWSPAPERS.

Bradford Observer, 2 copies.	Bradford Telegraph, 2 copies.
Leeds Mercury.	Liverpool Mercury.
Manchester Guardian.	Yorkshire Post.

WEEKLY PUBLICATIONS.

Bazaar (<i>thrice weekly</i>).	Bradford Weekly Telegraph.
Bradford Observer Budget.	Bradford Weekly Mercury.
Girls' Own Paper, 2 copies.	Graphic.
Illustrated London News.	Ladies' Pictorial.
Punch.	Queen.
Schoolmaster.	Tit Bits.
The Lady.	Yorkshireman.
	Young Ladies' Journal.

MONTHLY PERIODICALS.

Atalanta.	All the Year Round.
Argosy.	British Workwoman.
Cassell's Magazine.	Century Magazine.
Chambers' Journal.	Good Words.
Harper's Magazine.	Ladies' Treasury.
Leisure Hour.	Longman's Magazine.
Mothers' Friend.	Mrs. Leach's Dressmaker.
Myra's Journal.	Quiver.
Sunday at Home.	Sunday Magazine.
Sylvia's Journal.	Weldon's Journal.

The Women's Review.

Mr. Greenwood in his book on Public Libraries objects to women's rooms because they encourage a good deal of gossip, and further, that fashion sheets and plates are occasionally missing from the tables. As far as gossip is concerned, our own experience tends to prove the contrary; nor is much evidence of abuse in this respect to hand, for out of the 22 towns where these rooms are in operation, the bitter cry of "gossip" has never been uplifted sufficiently to attract attention. The objection that plates are sometimes stolen is also rather wide of the mark, seeing that men's reading rooms might be closed for the same reason. There is no doubt that in Bradford these rooms have been and are an unqualified success, and the Library committee are so satisfied with the result that similar rooms are now open in all the Branch Libraries. It is true they have not been successful in all places where the plan has been tried, as for

instance in Birmingham, where a women's reading room had to be closed on account of some very flagrant abuses of the privilege. Even in this case however the result was in some measure due to imperfect control by the staff. It was in an upper storey, cut off from the general reading room below, and the approach to it was close to the main entrance of the building. This unsatisfactory state of things led the Birmingham authorities eventually to close the room, and, instead, a table for women readers was set apart in the general reading room. Doubtless where there is not proper supervision the result may be unsatisfactory, whether it be in men's rooms or women's rooms, but given the necessary control there should be no fear of failure in either case. The following is a list of those towns, so far as I have been able to ascertain, in which women's reading rooms have been opened, namely :—

Belfast, Bradford, Cardiff, Chelsea, Darlington, Doncaster, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Gateshead, Grangemouth, Halifax, Hanley, Leicester, Newark, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Rochdale, Rotherham, St. Helens, and Sunderland. The list is probably imperfect, and the writer will therefore be glad to receive information as to any of the Libraries which have been omitted.

The following information, culled from the latest reports, will afford some idea of the condition of this branch of Library work in the towns hereafter named.

CHELSEA.—The women's room was little used at first, but it gradually became more used, until now the average attendance is very satisfactory.

DONCASTER.—The attendance in the women's room has fully borne out the expectation of the Committee.

LEICESTER.—Two of the Branches are provided with women's reading rooms, but there is no provision of a separate room at the Central Library owing to insufficient accommodation.

PLYMOUTH.—The women's room is often inconveniently crowded.

NOTTINGHAM.—The average attendance is 220 per day.

PORTSMOUTH.—The women's room, a new feature in the Library, has been most successful; in the day-time it is much frequented, and in the evening there is seldom a seat unoccupied.

ST. HELENS.—Women's room continues to be well attended.

SUNDERLAND.—Women's room continues to be appreciated, and at times becomes so overcrowded that many have to leave it before they otherwise would.

ROCHDALE.—The average attendance is 68 per day.

I now pass to the second of the special facilities for women readers, namely :

Separate Counters for Women Borrowers.

It would almost appear on the face of it that the provision of separate counters for women borrowers in the Lending and Reference Departments is carrying the fad of separation too far. Yet when judged by results the experiment in our own case has more than justified itself. Before the plan of partitioning off a separate counter was tried, the number of women borrowers did not exceed more than 10 per cent. of the whole. The difference between then and now may be appreciated when it is remembered that out of 10,806 borrowers enrolled last year, no less than 4,540 were women. In the Central Library, where alone the returns on this head are kept separately, the following are the figures as to issues during last year.

Reference Department : Men, 69,313 ; Women, 2,157.

Lending Department : Men, 95,978 ; Women, 77,430.

It will thus be seen from these figures that over two-thirds of the issues from the Lending Department are to women readers. These results are worth the careful attention of all interested in the question, as they indicate a possible way of still further extending our Library work. I am not aware of any other experiment in this particular direction, but should any have been tried I should be glad to hear of such.

Juvenile Libraries.

Perhaps one of the most striking evidences of the firm hold which the Free Library movement has laid on the people is the way in which our Library authorities are recognising the necessity of providing suitable literature for the rising generation. They are not content with providing material for the student and the general reader, but they are evidently fully alive to the necessity of providing suitable reading for the great multitude of children who are passing through or just emerging from the Board and other Schools of the country. These children are growing up with a craving for reading and a thirst for information which, if properly provided for, is bound to result in great benefit to the children concerned. There are now about 40 Libraries throughout the country where special collections of juvenile books have been formed, and in two of these, Nottingham and Reading, special buildings have been rented for the purpose; while in Leeds, Norwich, and Plymouth, they are located in

Board Schools and worked by the School teachers gratuitously, many of whom, to their credit be it said, enter into the spirit of their duties with great zeal. In some places a separate counter is provided for the juveniles, as in Cardiff, but as a rule the children are served from the general counter like the rest of the borrowers. These collections consist of books considered specially suitable for young people between the ages of say 7 and 15 or 16 years. They include works written by popular writers for young people, such as Marryat, Reid, Ballantyne, Kingston, Alcott, and Ewing, besides travels and books on Natural Science. Of these a special catalogue is usually issued, and thus the young borrower has the great advantage of having before him the whole of the books in the Library suitable to his digestion. They also include many books suitable for children which, were they not located in this section, would probably never reach those for whom they are intended, such for instance as Courteney's "Travels in the Interior," a book really written to instruct children in human physiology; and many others which serve to gild the pill of instruction. These advantages, which are undoubtedly great, justify the existence of Juvenile Sections. On the other hand it must not be assumed that in towns where such sections do not exist there is no provision for young readers, for the same work is practically carried on in most of our Public Libraries, although without the advantage of those special facilities which are available where Juvenile Sections are in operation. We find a large number of young borrowers in all our Libraries, and if the books suitable for them are not separated from the rest of the stock, they are there all the same and are freely used by the young readers. It would therefore be an injustice to those Libraries where no such arrangements exist to suppose that the claims of the children are neglected.

With regard to the methods of dealing with Juvenile Sections, the plan of renting a separate building for this purpose is undoubtedly a good one, as it not only serves its purpose better, but relieves the pressure at the Central Library and secures an amount of quiet and order which would be otherwise impossible. This plan is now working in Nottingham, and is a great success. That adopted at Plymouth, Norwich, and Leeds is also an admirable arrangement, inasmuch as the teachers of the Board Schools have greater opportunities of wisely directing the reading of the young people under their charge. Where an arrangement can be made by the Library authorities with the School

Board for the carrying out of these sections, it should by all means be done, as it is far better than working sectional divisions at the Central Libraries. Mr. Wright, of Plymouth, in his last report, says, "They (the Board School Libraries) have given entire satisfaction, and several of the schools have applied for and received additional grants of books." The same plan has also been adopted at Norwich, where there are Libraries in 38 elementary schools, all worked by the teachers, who last year issued 56,491 volumes to the scholars. The Juvenile Section is very strong in the Newcastle Library, and is one of which the people there feel somewhat proud. There is now a stock of 2,562 volumes, and the issue of books last year amounted to 46,309. It is worthy of note that the demand for books on Natural History, Travels and History, is increasing, while ordinary "Children's Books" are in less request. In glancing over the latest returns we find that Leeds comes first in the number of volumes set aside for Juvenile Readers, there being 24,134 volumes (a large number), and an issue of 207,183. Turnover (8).

Plymouth comes next with 2,934 volumes and an issue of 104,404. Turnover (35). The next among the large Libraries follow in order as far as I have been able to ascertain: Leicester 3,429 volumes, issues 70,750. Newcastle 2,562 volumes, issues 46,309. Belfast 1,920 volumes, issues 39,534. Birkenhead 3,288 volumes, issues 31,153. Cheltenham 1,270 volumes, issues 28,814. The rest follow in the table given at the end of this article.

These results are so satisfactory that we may be justified in predicting that in a few years' time there will be few Libraries of importance without a Juvenile Department working in connection with them.

In conclusion, it should be understood that the object of this paper has not been to go very minutely into any of the subjects referred to, but rather to give a general description of these three developments of Library work. There are many other special features which might be discussed, such as Boys' Reading Rooms, Subscription Departments, Travelling Libraries, and so on. Even Smoke Rooms in connection with Free Libraries are not unknown; but these, and others like them, must be left for future consideration.

Name of Town.	Volumes in Stock.	Issues.	Turnover.
Aston	429	10,102	23
Barrow	1,351	19,000	14
Belfast	1,920	39,534	20
Birkenhead	3,288	31,153	9
Brentford	56	531	9
Cambridge	1,196	6,908	5
Cardiff	Counter for Boys		
Chelsea	1,181	20,838	17
Cheltenham	1,270	28,814	22
Chesterfield	—	768	
Clapham	435	11,545	26
Darlington	No figures, very	successful	
Dewsbury	517	13,118	25
Ealing	397	7,250	18
Gateshead	—	24,000	
Halifax	4,481	26,177	5
Handsworth	581	6,243	10
Hull (Reckitt's)	772	19,258	25
Leeds	24,134	207,183	8
Leicester	3,429	70,750	20
Loughborough	428	8,445	19
Newcastle	2,562	46,309	18
Norwich	—	56,491	
Plymouth	2,934	104,404	35
Reading	3,127	51,000	16
Richmond	645	5,574	8
Rochdale	994	39,311	9
Smethwick	807	11,516	14
Stafford	342	3,343	9
Sunderland	1,576	23,368	14
Tonbridge	573	1,018	2
Tynemouth	2,458	21,368	8
Walsall	307	1,002	3
Wednesbury	791	6,276	8
West Bromwich	513	9,020	17
Yarmouth, Great	656	18,447	28

BUTLER WOOD.



Note on "Fines" for the Damage of Books.*

MOST Lending Libraries have a regulation somewhat to this effect: that each book on its return shall be examined by the librarian, and, if it be found to have sustained any damage, the borrower shall be held accountable for the same.

It may be at once admitted that there is a certain kind of damage to which this rule can be applied without hesitation—the kind, namely, where the effects of the damage are of so glaring a nature that they cannot fail to catch the eye of even the busiest librarian, and for which not even the most unblushing of borrowers would venture to dispute his liability. The case, however, is altogether different in those instances—and they are, unfortunately, far the more frequent—in which the damage is of a less conspicuous, and of a more or less elusive, character. Such are the instances of tearing of leaves and plates, or their complete removal from the volumes, of stains from ink and other even more objectionable liquids, and of written marks and comments of a more or less offensive order. These, for the most part, are only to be detected by a very careful, deliberate, and in some cases, page-by-page examination. Such an examination it is clearly impossible for the librarian to make on the return of each volume; and yet without it how can he fairly keep the balance of blame between successive borrowers, and, at the same time, conserve the interests and property of the library? Looked at in any way, the problem presents difficulties, which the librarian who would do justly finds a daily source of perplexity. As the result of my own experience, the solution which presents itself as at once reasonable and fair, is to throw the burden of detection of damage on the borrower. He is the one who alone is in a good position to discover blemishes of the kind in question, and it should be made to seem both his duty and his interest to take the earliest opportunity to direct the librarian's atten-

* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Nottingham, September, 1891.

tion to whatever of that nature he comes across. If he fail to do this, there should then be a *prima facie* case against him as the offender. Of course, even though he does do so, it does not necessarily follow that he is innocent, for he may be a dishonest person, trying to cover up his own iniquity by imputing blame to another; or he may be an innocent sufferer for damage not done by himself, but done while the book was in his charge, by his messenger, or some member of his household. In any case, however, much, if not everything, has been gained in the cause of the detection of damage, and we are put in a fair way to fix the penalty on the right party. In concluding this brief note, I append a copy of a notice to borrowers, which is now inserted in the volumes of the Aberdeen Public Library, immediately before the text proper, and which embodies the principle now set forth.

ABERDEEN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Borrowers are requested to note that it is both their duty and their interest to use Library Volumes with all possible care, and to protect them while in their keeping from any harm which would tend to lessen their value or pleasure to other Borrowers. Care is taken, as far as possible, by the Librarian to see that all Books are complete and in good order at the time of issue; but, for various reasons, many blemishes must needs escape notice. It is incumbent, therefore, on every Borrower to examine, as soon as possible, all Books intrusted to him, and if then or subsequently in reading he should discover any defect or damage, he should take the earliest opportunity to report the same at the Library. Any Borrower who fails to do this is liable to be charged with the defect or damage, and to have his Ticket suspended.

Borrowers who accidentally injure Books, or suffer them to be injured, should, on the return of the same to the Library, draw the Librarian's attention to the injury, otherwise their Tickets will be suspended, and their conduct reported to the Library Committee.

Borrowers who, by writing, tearing, or in any other way wilfully injure Books, or suffer them to be wilfully injured, will be regarded as unfit to use the Library, and be dealt with accordingly.

By order,

A. W. ROBERTSON, M.A.,

Librarian.

The Chronology of the Waverley Novels.

THERE is no writer of fiction who has spread his works over so large a period of time as Sir Walter Scott. The plots of his stories are laid in sixteen different reigns. Beginning with William II., and ending with George III., the total time occupied is from 1090 to 1800, say 710 years. The twenty-seven Waverley novels arranged chronologically would fall into the following order:—

William II.	...	Count Robert of Paris.
Henry II.	...	The Betrothed.
Richard I.	...	The Talisman.
do.	...	Ivanhoe.
Edward I.	...	Castle Dangerous.
Henry IV.	...	The Fair Maid of Perth.
Edward IV.	...	Quentin Durward.
do.	...	Ann of Geierstein.
Elizabeth	...	The Monastery.
do.	...	The Abbot.
do.	...	Kenilworth.
James I.	...	Fortunes of Nigel.
Charles I.	...	A Legend of Montrose.
Cromwell	...	Woodstock.
Charles II.	...	Peveril of the Peak.
do.	...	Old Mortality.
William III.	...	The Bride of Lammermoor.
do.	...	The Pirate.
Anne	...	The Black Dwarf.
George I.	...	Rob Roy.
George II.	...	The Heart of Midlothian.
do.	...	Waverley.
do.	...	The Surgeon's Daughter.
George III.	...	Guy Mannering.
do.	...	Red Gauntlet.
do.	...	The Antiquary.
do.	...	St. Ronan's Well.

Some of them are not historical novels. Some that are historical deal slightly or not at all with English history; *Quentin Durward* and *Ann of Geierstein*, for instance, are almost entirely continental. But taking them altogether, we may say that those who are well up in Scott, other things being equal, will pass an English history examination far more brilliantly than those who know nothing of him. The Waverley novels give the perspective of the different periods, and surround the events with their appropriate scenery. In presence of such excellence, if one might dare to criticize, we might whisper that the beginning of *Waverley* is heavy reading, especially for boys; and that it is a long while before *Peveril of the Peak* becomes interesting. In *Guy Mannering*, the letters of Julia to her silly friend are a nuisance, as also the idea kept going in *Rob Roy* that Frank Osbaldistone is writing to his friend, Will Tresham. *Ivanhoe* should not have a sentence omitted. *Kenilworth* begins splendidly with a conversational scene at an inn. *The Betrothed* is a short story that takes a long time in the telling, and does not give the vivid impression of old times that Sir Walter's other stories convey. Alice in Wonderland speaks on behalf of a very large class of readers when she asks, "What is the use of a book without pictures or conversations?" At any rate she is right as to conversations. The conversations may not all be brilliant, but somehow, there is a hopeful element in them; the dead level of narrative or description frightens us if it extends over many pages.

All peddling criticism aside, the Waverley novels are a priceless boon, and the education of the man, woman, or child who has not read them is incomplete.

JOHN FOSTER.



Mr. John Plant, F.G.S.

We are sorry to record that, after a life-long association with the Peel Park Museum and Library, Salford, in which he has held the office of Curator and Chief Librarian ever since its foundation in 1849, Mr. John Plant has, owing to advancing years, resigned his active connection with that institution. Mr. Plant was born in Leicester in 1819, is the son of Mr. R. F. Plant, a stationer of that town, and is the brother of three well known followers of scientific pursuits. In 1846 he was appointed Librarian of the Permanent Library of his native town, which post he held until 1849, in which year he was appointed Curator and Librarian of Peel Park. At the time of its opening the Peel Park Library, the first free library under the Ewart Act, was a comparatively small one, containing some 5,000 volumes, and we can form some idea of its expansion under Mr. Plant's hands from the consideration that the Salford Free Library system now comprises a reference library of 51,000 volumes and a lending library of 14,000 volumes, both situate in the large central institution in Peel Park, and also four branch libraries, each containing an average collection of 10,000 vols. As a big statistic, we may say that the gross number of books issued from all these libraries since their opening amount to more than nine millions, and in the same breath we may add that the entire number of visitors to the Peel Park Museum during Mr. Plant's forty-two years of curatorship amounts to upwards of nineteen millions. As is well known, the Museum and Art Galleries have all along been the principal and popular feature in the large institution in Peel Park, and although Mr. Plant, when he went thither in 1849, was, by previous experience, well qualified for the work of librarian, he was still more so for that of developing the other departments. His scientific and art studies began when he was a youth in Leicester, of the Museum of which town he was Curator from 1844 until 1846. To trace his career in scientific matters would take more space than we have at command, but we should not omit to mention in particular his valuable explorations in connection with geology, and especially the fossil fishes of the Manchester coal measure. Mr. Plant is an old member of the London Geological Society, and the oldest member of the Manchester Geological Society. When we reflect upon the amount of attention which he has given from the first to the scientific portion of his duties, we are all the more surprised that he has been able to accomplish so much in connection with the libraries under his care. We understand that Mr. Plant, who in the future will reside principally in Anglesea, will still retain a real association with Peel Park Museum as Consulting Curator and Librarian. It is interesting to know that Mr. W. H. Bates, F.R.S., whose death was recently announced, and his companion explorer on the Amazon, Mr. Alfred Russel Wallace, were both old schoolfellows of Mr. Plant, and, singular to say, went straight from Mr. Plant's wedding breakfast to embark for their South American expedition.

Obituary.

ROBERT MAJOR HOLBORN.

By the death of Mr. Robert Major Holborn, of Highbury, London, on March 27, 1892, at the age of 67, the Library Association has lost one of the most enthusiastic of its later recruits. Though Mr. Holborn only joined the Association in 1888, he had previously shown his interest in

it by contributing largely to the exhibition held in connection with the Plymouth meeting. He will long be remembered by those who had the pleasure of enjoying his genial society as being not only a born humourist himself, but the cause of much humour in others. At the Reading meeting he distinguished himself by a mixture of liberality and pleasant eccentricity, which did much to make things pass off with success. Many will remember his retort on a clergyman when returning by the river from Dorchester to Reading. The reverend gentleman had been annoying every occupant of the launch within earshot by his continual complaints and loud-voiced expression of certainty that he would lose a certain train to London. "How shall I get there," said he, "if this boat is late?" "Oh! be an angel for once and take a *fly*," replied Mr. Holborn, to the intense satisfaction of everybody who heard. Mr. Holborn's great interest in the public library movement was shown in many practical forms, and it was largely due to his gift of £600 in money and books that Clerkenwell adopted the Acts. He also initiated both the unsuccessful attempts made in Islington to carry the Acts. His own library, consisting of nearly 6,000 volumes, is rich in choice specimens of binding, some of which were shown at the Nottingham meeting. He had travelled much, and was especially well-read in English poetry, and had such an admiration for "The Course of Time," Pollock's somewhat dolorous epic, that he made himself practically letter-perfect in it. His collection was formed largely under the guidance of Mr. H. W. Fincham, a well-known London member of the Association, and will probably be sold in London. The loss of Mr. Holborn to the Association will be regretted by all who had the pleasure of seeing and hearing him during the less intensely business-like intervals of the annual meetings. J. D. B.

EX-PRECEPTOR WILSON.

We deeply regret to record the death of Ex-Preceptor Wilson of Glasgow. Mr. Wilson was for many years Chairman of the Mitchell Library Committee, and in that capacity rendered the city of Glasgow splendid service.

He was a member of the Town Council of Glasgow for over thirty years, and had filled most of the offices of honour in the gift of the Corporation. The office from which he derived his curious title was that of Preceptor (or Governor) of Hutcheson's Hospital, an educational trust founded by two brothers Hutcheson in the 17th century. As a member of the first staff of the Mitchell the present writer will always remember the ex-Preceptor with affection. His burly bustling figure was a welcome sight in the Library. He had a cheery smile and a pat on the back for even the youngest assistant, and his heart was with the work of the Library. In those early days the Mitchell needed a strong and energetic chairman, and it had one in Mr. Wilson. The thorough sincerity of his enthusiasm for its work gained it many supporters. The members of the L.A.U.K. who were present at the Glasgow meeting will not soon forget his kindly presence. He presided at the dinner in the Town Hall of Ayr, and made one of his happiest efforts in proposing the toast of the Library Association. He was a keen admirer of Burns, and the "Mitchell" owes its splendid Burns and Scottish poetry collections to his unflagging enthusiasm. He always took a great interest in the Library Association, and was present at the Plymouth and Reading meetings. Mr. Barrett represented the Association at the funeral.—T.M.

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

3ottings.

A Paris! A Paris! The Library world is astir at the news that next September will witness an invasion of the French capital by a brigade of the L.A.U.K. There will be no defence, for although the garrison have not thrown down their arms, they will open them to receive the invaders, and the only fusilade will be a warm fire of generous hospitalities.

The letters we print on another page indicate very emphatically the cordial intentions of the authorities in Paris, and the unprecedented number of applications for tickets already received makes it abundantly clear that the Paris Meeting will prove to be one of the most successful ever held by the Association.

The L.A.U.K. meetings differ in many ways from those held by our American cousins, but in none more markedly than in the small attendance of ladies. The Paris Meeting will however be distinguished by the large number of ladies who will testify their faith in the proved gallantry of our French hosts and their own profound interest in the Municipal Libraries of Paris. This keen interest in the intellectual machinery of the French capital is truly encouraging, and should for ever be an effective answer to those ribald scoffers who insinuate that to ladies Paris is synonymous with the Maison du Louvre, and that French art means the establishment of M. Worth.

It may be interesting to our librarian readers to know that in the April number of the "Magazine of Music" appears a very elaborate and complete list of musical works of all sorts, compiled by Mr. J. D. Brown, of Clerkenwell. This list gives particulars of edition, price, and publishers of works on musical theory, sacred and secular vocal music, instrumental music, operas, oratorios, &c., chiefly in collected or book form.

Dean Owen, in an article in the *Welsh Review* for February, says:—"The desire and capacity for higher study is widely diffused among Welsh working men. The movement for shorter hours of labour will give the necessary leisure as time goes on. The establishment of local free libraries in villages as well as in towns is not a question of the remote future, as villagers now by reason of their votes have been discovered to be worthy of the competitive considerations of statesmen."

Mrs. T. H. Green has repeated her liberal donation of £100 to the funds of the Oxford University Extension system. Her gift will be used in supplementing the travelling libraries, the value of which is more fully recognised every year. In Oxfordshire, for example, the circulation of the libraries has caused representations to be made to the County Council in favour of a County lending library for students. In New York State, too, the plan of travelling libraries, adopted from the Oxford system, is reported to be working admirably, and we have no doubt that the inventive genius of Mr. Melvil Dewey, most resourceful of librarians, will add many attractive features to the scheme.

A travelling library, however, is at best a *pis-aller*. No single box can meet the needs of a large audience wanting not only a number of different books, but, simultaneously, a great many copies of the same book. The design of the travelling library is to provoke desire for books, not to satisfy that desire. Satisfaction can only come—for the richer students by private purchase, for the poorer through a public library. But public libraries as yet exist in comparatively few towns and in hardly any villages. In most of the smaller centres therefore—and University Extension teaching will spread year by year into tinier places—the travelling library will for a long time have its obvious use. In the larger towns Extension teaching will probably be drawn into closer relations with the public library—to which indeed it ought to stand as the salesman stands towards the shop goods behind him—while in those cities where no public library exists, the very limitations of the travelling library will excite students, as recently at Gloucester, to renew their agitation for a permanent and public collection.—*Oxford University Extension Gazette*, May, 1892.

Through the kindness of Dr. Garnett we have been placed in possession of a number of our German contemporary, *Das Archiv*, a weekly journal of bibliography, which contains a very interesting account of a public library as far off as Tiflis, written by the present Director, Dr. G. Radde. The library, we are told, was founded in 1846, simultaneously with two newspapers in Russian and a Caucasian Kalendar. The first work deposited in it was the *Historia Armenensis* of Moses Chorenensis, edited in Latin and Armenian by William and George Whiston, *London*, 1646. In 1848 a library of nearly 7,000 volumes was purchased in bulk, a building was erected, in which room was found for the Government printers on the ground floor, and the librarian became a servant of the State, with a due allowance. In 1858, Field Marshal Prince Barjätinsky was Governor of the Caucasus, and under his direction the library began to specialise, attention being chiefly concentrated on books relating to the Caucasus, and secondarily to Persia and Turkey. In 1862 the library contained 5,290 works in 11,655 volumes, nearly fifteen hundred volumes fewer than ten years before, damp having worked most pitiable ravages in the interim. Probably, however, what had been lost in quantity was more than made up in quality, and in this year the first catalogue was issued—a work of more than a thousand pages. Eight years later the library was transferred to a handsome new building opposite the Governor's palace, and thenceforward its progress has been rapid. On January 1st, 1890, its contents had risen to 16,386 works in 30,268 volumes, its visitors averaged from twenty to twenty-five a day, and new rooms were urgently required. The record may not seem very brilliant, but Tiflis is not as Birmingham or Manchester, and a specialist's library is seldom crowded. For ourselves, we note with pleasure that even in the far Caucasus, where the domains of the despotic Russian border on those of the unspeakable Turk, there also the library movement spreads and grows.

There is a worthy "bailie" of Glasgow who objects to projects for the regeneration of the masses by means of free libraries. He recently presented his convictions to the electors of the Second Ward. "Perties," he remarked, "try to get up a movement to get thae libraries saddled on the people in the shape o' taxes. If they are to be free, let them be free! Are auld widows who have not enough to keep sowl and body thegither to be burdened wi' taxes to accommodate a lot o' men? And what are they? When I go up occasionally to the library I see a lot o' men

"sleeping owre the tap o' pictur' books, and when I come doon again they are still snoozing awa!" He held that the free library was a continual danger and temptation. The working man who went there "nicht fa' in wi' a cronie." And there is no telling what might not happen then!

Customer: "Have you a copy of Omar Khayyam?"

Bookseller: "No, I am 'out' of the Khayyam, but I've got a very nice copy of his *Iliad* I can sell you cheap!"

Juvenile Reader (with his finger on the Catalogue): "Comic Almanack?"

Library Assistant: "That is out."

J.R. (running his finger down the page): "Comic Sections."

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Burlington Fine Arts Club Exhibition of Book-Bindings. [Illustrated Catalogue.] London: Printed for the Burlington Fine Arts Club, 1891, 4to. pp. 132. With 113 plates. Sold only to Members.

Historic Bindings in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, with reproductions of twenty-four of the finest bindings, fully described by W. Salt Brassington, F.S.A. London: Sampson Low, Marston & Co., 1891, 4to. pp. xlv. 64. Price £2 2s.

Mémoires de la Société d'Emulation d'Abbeville, Tom. 1^{er}: Les Reliures artistiques et armoriées de la Bibliothèque communale d'Abbeville. Par Alcuïs Ledieu. Abbeville, 1891, 8vo. pp. 113. With 15 plates. Price 18 francs.

Henri Béraldi. Estampes et livres, 1872-1892. Paris: Librairie L. Conquet, 1892, 4°. pp. 277. With 40 plates. Price 50 francs.

Henri Pène Du Bois. Four Private Libraries of New York. A contribution to the history of Bibliophilism in America. First Series. Preface by Octave Uzanne. New York: Duprat & Co., 1892, 8vo. [London Agent: B. Quaritch], pp. 119. Price 10s. 6d.

We propose to notice these five books in a single review, because all five of them contain reproductions of specimens of book-binding, while the two which are only incidentally concerned with the art have other points in common which makes it desirable to glance at them together rather than separately. We take the least important of our five books first and find that among the 30,000 volumes swept into the Public Library at Abbeville by the French Revolution, and those subsequently added by private donors, there are a few possessed of fine or interesting bindings. Of some forty of these a description is given by M. Ledieu, prefaced by a brief account of the history of binding (based for the most part on M. Léon Gruel's *Manuel de l'amateur des reliures*), and illustrated by fifteen plates, some plain, others in colours, which, though not executed with the brilliancy usual in French work of the kind, yet give a very fair idea of

the covers they represent. A considerable proportion of the bindings described are examples of stamped work, among the most interesting being an edition of the Epistles of Franciscus Philadelphus (1508) bound by Denis Roce, with his motto (A l'aventure tout vient à point qui sait attendre) and monogram. The design itself is in four compartments, in which are severally represented, S. James, S. Barbe, S. Geneviève and S. Nicholas. The chef-d'œuvre of the library is probably the *Quadragesimale* of Robertus de Licio (1496) in a very sharply stamped binding containing, among other figures, a portrait of Charlemagne. The examples of later work present little or nothing which is out of the common. This, we are afraid, may also be said of the twenty-four historic bindings reproduced by Mr. Salt Braddington from books at the Bodleian. Many old friends are here seen once more :—books bound for Wotton (why does Mr. Braddington say that the British Museum possesses no book with Wotton's arms when one has been exhibited for years?), for the Earl of Leicester, for De Thou, &c., &c. Diane de Poitiers, she also, is not absent, being represented by a very charming Vitruvius (1547) in white leather, which, with the vellum Horae of Pigouchet (1498) gives some distinction to an otherwise dull collection. Mr. Braddington has done his best to add interest to his volume by prefixing a brief account of the Bodleian and of book-binding in Oxford, as well as by his long notes on all the bindings reproduced. The introduction is a competent piece of work, though it is a little absurd to take the Clerk of Oxenford's desiderated rather than existent library of "twenty bookes clad in blak or red" as the first notice of Oxford book-binding. Chaucer only remarks that the Clerk would rather have a book than a fiddle, and whether he possessed the twenty books and, if so, where they were bound, is not set down. However, we are told that there was a Book-binders' Bridge at Oxford, and it is therefore only reasonable to suppose that binding was extensively carried on there. In the brief notice of printing at the University we presume that the sentence "from the year 1479 [sic] till 1518 no printing appears to have been done in Oxford" contains a misprint. So too the inscription "Arms of the Boleyn family" under a book with the falcon-badge borne by Anne Boleyn and Queen Elizabeth, is doubtless a mere slip, as the badge is correctly described in the text. The reproductions are mostly very fairly well done, notably those of two pretty embroidered books at the end of the volume. All of them differ in one respect from the able work of Mr. Griggs for the Burlington Club in that they represent the actual condition of the book, with all its rubs and scratches. Under Mr. Griggs' hands these disappear, and we see the book restored to its first, sometimes rather garish, freshness. This is not an unmixed blessing, especially as with the signs of use we lose also all mark of the texture of the leather, so that very often these reproductions appear rather as coloured designs for bindings than as real book-covers. They are very beautiful, for all that, and some of the Oriental books and again the English inlaid bindings are quite triumphantly well-done. Of the catalogue itself, the work of Mr. Fletcher of the British Museum, and Mr. Weale of South Kensington, and the introductions by Mr. Gordon Duff and Miss Prideaux, we have already spoken in noticing the Exhibition last year. The hope which we then expressed that so masterly a piece of work might be given a permanent form has certainly been fulfilled in a manner to surpass all expectation. Illustrated with one hundred and thirteen plates, some of which contain more than one binding, the catalogue now forms a very epitome and museum of the art, and leaves little fresh to be written from a purely historical stand-point. Here are blind bindings some with small stamps, others with panels; here are early Venetian bindings; Groliers, Maiolis, Canevaris, De Thou's, specimens of

the work of the Eves and Le Gascon, examples of our English work of the 17th and 18th centuries—everything in fact which is necessary to illustrate the history of leather-binding from the twelfth century to the end of the eighteenth. Satiety comes upon us : we feel that we have seen all that we want to see, and we hope that for a little while historic bindings will now be suffered to rest in peace, undisturbed by the photographer. Here we are gradually arriving at the standpoint of the two writers last on our list. M. Pène Du Bois, it is true, devotes a chapter to the historic book-covers in the library of Mr. Avery, and does not fail to reproduce the inevitable Grolier. Nevertheless he concerns himself chiefly with the bindings of to-day and to-morrow, and makes some admirable remarks on them. M. Henri Béraldi goes even further. The best historic book-covers, he says, are all in Museums (the Burlington Exhibition hardly squares with this assertion) and it is only the "bibliophile de la vieille roche" who scorns all bindings save those "du seizième." Let us set ourselves to create the historic book-covers of the future. Thus he admits into his library a few Deromes, but it is Marius Michel and Cuzin whose work is chiefly reproduced in his illustrations. Now excellent as all this is in principle, the result, as exemplified in M. Béraldi's catalogue, is hardly satisfactory. For Cuzin and Marius Michel, wonderful workmen though they be, have produced sadly few original designs which escape alike insignificance and vulgarity. (If it be too bold to say this, let this reviewer and not his editor be blamed.) Cuzin is good when he is directly imitating eighteenth century work, but he has no originality. Marius Michel, on the other hand, is bold enough—witness his quite hateful binding to *Les Affiches illustrées*—but it is only now and again (as in the cover and doubleur to M. Béraldi's *Manon Lescaut*) that he is successful. Mr. Cobden Sanderson's binding of *Aucassin et Nicolette* (reproduced by M. Pène Du Bois) seems to us to come nearer to the combination of originality and grace than the work of either of his French compeers favoured by M. Béraldi.

Pass we at last from bindings and their reproductions and let us look for a few minutes at M. Béraldi's library. There are only 400 works in it, comprised in about a thousand volumes, and the collection is all the more gracious. Illustrated books of the last and the present centuries are M. Béraldi's favourites, and beginning with *Les Amours de Daphnis et Chloé* of 1718, he has contrived to bring together all the most desirable of the *livres à vignettes* which have lately been the chief objects of the desires of French collectors. Of course the edition of the *Contes de La Fontaine* brought out by the Fermiers-Généraux in 1762 is present in M. Béraldi's library—Madame de Pompadour's copy, bound by Derome ! Here, too, are the *Chansons de La Borde* (1773), with the plates of Moreau, Le Bouteux, &c., and a trial proof of the suppressed etching of Marie Antoinette. Here again is the *Anacreon* of the same year, of which M. Béraldi made up two complete copies out of odd purchases, and made the one he sold pay the best part of the price of the one he kept. Here too is the ever famous manuscript of La Fontaine's *Contes*, with the designs made by Fragonard about 1780. This, like many other of M. Béraldi's treasures, once belonged to his friend Eugène Paillet, who sacrificed for it books from his library to the value of 25,000 francs and then recouped himself and gathered 5,000 francs to the good by allowing the illustrations to be reproduced. In fine here is everything which the lover of the vignettists could desire, embellished with those illustrations à la Cuzin which we do not love, and also with delightful notes by M. Béraldi himself which are full of piquancy and good sense.

By the side of M. Béraldi the lights of M. Henri Pène Du Bois burn a little dim. When the Parisian talks of "les amateurs de 1875" the New

Yorker babbles of "the art of the decade," and the effort "to go one better" is distressing. But M. Du Bois describes his four libraries very amusingly, and writes with competent knowledge of such diverse subjects as the works of the French Romanticists, Historical Book-covers, Elzevirs, Livres à Vignettes, &c. Some of his aphorisms are as good as M. Béraldi's notes. Here are a few of them; the first of collectors who buy according to the Manuals:—

"Of course a book-lover has money; Balzac takes care to provide his heroes with well-filled purses in order that they shall not be annoyed by absurd difficulties; but he never lets them acquire heroism by purchase. A fortune may be a positive force against the formation of a library."

It is sometimes said that a French book in an English binding is a monstrosity. Very likely it is, but not of necessity; and the epigram "a book should be bound well, not geographically" disposes of all objections. Here too is advice to which it were good if American "bibliomaniacs" (we quote Mr. Tredwell) had listened:—

"*Never extend.* Of one hundred books extended by the insertion of prints which were not made for them, ninety-nine are ruined; the hundredth book is no longer a book, it is a Museum." With which warning to Grangerites this too lengthy gossip shall come to a close.

A Monograph on Privately Illustrated Books: a plea for bibliomania. By Daniell M. Tredwell. Lincoln Road, Flatbush, Long Island, privately printed, 1892. 8vo, pp. 502.

It is not easy to find anything to say in praise of this elaborate monograph. Mr. Tredwell belongs to that rather numerous class of writers about books, whose zeal is not according to knowledge, and who regard a taste for bibliography at second-hand as synonymous with a love of literature. Mr. Tredwell writes of Petronius Arbiter as "Petronius and Arbiter" (p. 19), quotes Scott's *Antiquary* almost verbatim without troubling his readers with inverted commas, and with a foot-note which helps to suggest that the text is original (pp. 19, 20); writes of *Les Fais et Prouesses du Chevalier Jason* as *bound* (instead of *written*) by Raoul Lefevre (p. 45); and shows his acquaintance with Greek by sanctioning, not merely a wrong, but an impossible accent, and with Latin by spoiling a pretty verse of Mr. Lang's by reading *queis* instead of *quies*. He records—for Mr. Tredwell is nothing if not ingenuous—how he began his career as a Grangerite by breaking up a good book to illustrate a worse one, and how he suffered reproof at the hand of his binder for confusing Sam Johnson of Cheshire, a dramatist, with the great Doctor, who was four years his junior. This last eccentricity we should not have mentioned, so prettily does Mr. Tredwell tell the tale against himself, were it not for the evidence which his narration incidentally affords, that it is by no means necessary for a Grangerite even to read the books he illustrates. "*Relying entirely upon the Index of the Book,*" he writes, "and being ignorant of this Cheshire Sam, I had inserted the portrait of our Sam Johnson [why *our*?] the lexicographer of Lichfield, born in 1709." Thus is the secret and charm of Grangerism disclosed. For you may "extend," glorious thought, one poor volume to twenty, and, so be that it have an index, you yourself need not read twenty pages. Thus too is it explained why the worst, not the best, books are so often chosen by the Grangerite for his operations. Given an index, worst and best are all one. For the rest, after his little preliminary dissertation Mr. Tredwell expatiates in a fashion, as he remarks, a little *cataloguey*, how this and

that American magnate has swollen this and that poor book to so many times its original size, and how, in Mr. Tredwell's judgment, the result of the extension is worth so many hundred or thousand dollars, and could not be imitated under so many hundred more. We can take no pleasure in these enumerations, and own to a great joy at the information that these *biblia abiblia*, when brought under the hammer, usually fetch but a small proportion of their cost of production. Not that the practice of privately illustrating books is, in itself, necessarily and always, bad. If the text retain its supremacy and the book its form, skilfully chosen illustrations may often supplement a publisher's illiberality. The rich French collectors, who sometimes persuade artists of repute to enrich a treasured volume with three or four dainty water-colours or etchings certainly commit no crime; and amateurs of slenderer purse may be permitted to follow them modestly so far as their means allow. But to turn a book into a portfolio, rather into half-a-dozen portfolios, and to alter the size by inlaying—this is indeed a miserable occupation, which no lover of literature would ever permit himself.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Public Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

AYR.—Mr. Phillips, librarian of the old library, has been appointed librarian of the Carnegie Public Library, at a salary of £90 per annum, with an allowance of £30 for cleaning.

BINGLEY.—On April 2 the new Free Library was opened. It has been established by the liberality of Mr. Alfred Sharp, whose portrait was unveiled at the opening ceremony.

BIRMINGHAM.—At the meeting of the Free Libraries Committee on May 2, the question of "blacking out" arose, and after a somewhat protracted discussion it was resolved to take no action in the matter at present. The committee, however, resolved to adopt in the Branch Free Libraries the system which has been in force at the Central Free Library for some time, of cutting out the portions of newspapers containing advertisements of situations vacant, situations wanted, and other requirements, and placing them on separate boards for more easy reference by persons particularly interested.

EASTBOURNE.—The East Sussex County Council having paid over to the Town Council of Eastbourne (which is a non-county borough) a proportion of the Customs and Excise grant for technical instruction during the year ending 25th March, 1892, based on rateable value, the Town Council organised a series of twelve classes during the winter months. Over 800 students entered their names, and the bulk of them have continued in regular attendance. Examinations have been held in connection with the Science and Art Department, and the Committee has awarded prizes for distribution in each class. In addition to the classes there have been a series of fortnightly free lectures (illustrated with lime-

light views) on astronomy, botany, photography, plumbing, and other subjects. The Town Hall has been used for the lectures and is capable of holding about 800 persons; in most cases the room has been nearly filled. The classes have been held in the Committee Rooms of the Town Hall and the Technical Instruction Committee feel that the time has come for the erection of a permanent building. They have accordingly recommended the Council to prepare a scheme for a Free Library and Museum, Technical Institute, School of Art, and Gymnasium, and that Committee has had draft plans prepared and will shortly bring up its recommendations for approval.

JEDBURGH, SCOTLAND.—A movement in favour of the adoption of the Libraries Acts has been in progress here for some time, and has now come to a practical stage through the offer of the Public Reading-room directors to hand over their property to the town. In addition Mr. Andrew Carnegie has, with his usual generosity, promised to give the last £250 of the sum required to initiate the library. It is therefore likely that matters will soon be brought to a satisfactory conclusion, and that Jedburgh will be on an equal footing in this respect with the other Border towns of Selkirk, Hawick and Galashiels.

LINCOLN.—Cathedral Library. Mr. Pearson's scheme for removing this building, erected by Sir Christopher Wren, and re-erecting it on another site, has caused a great deal of discussion and a protest from the Society of Antiquaries.

LONDON, BERMONDSEY.—The Free Library Commissioners have decided to open the news-room and reference department of the library from the first Sunday in October next to the last Sunday in March, 1893, from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m.

LONDON, KENSINGTON.—On April 30, at the West London Police Court, a middle-aged man named Joseph Massey Jones, who was described as a servant, was charged with stealing a penny local paper, the property of the Kensington Commissioners of Public Libraries. Mr. Curtis-Bennett said public libraries must be protected from such depredations, and committed the prisoner for twenty-one days with hard labour.

LONDON, LEWISHAM.—The result of the poll on the question whether the limitation of the Public Library rate to one halfpenny in the £ should be removed was declared at the end of April. The figures are: against, 2878; for, 1872. Majority against, 1006.

LONDON, PENGE.—The Penge Public Library Commissioners have completed the arrangements for the opening of a library in Station-road, Anerley. This is merely a temporary arrangement, pending the decision of the Commissioners with reference to the question of the site for the permanent building.

Mr. William Bridle, Sub-Librarian at the Battersea Public Library, was appointed on May 11th Librarian of the Penge Public Library. He has been four years at Battersea, and was previously Assistant in the Cardiff Library for nine years.

MANCHESTER.—The Free Library in Dickenson-road, Rusholme, was formally opened on April 30, by Sir Henry Roscoe, M.P. The Public Hall and rooms connected with it have been handed over to the Corporation, and the Free Libraries Committee have now prepared them for their new purposes.

MANCHESTER.—Royal Exchange Library. On April 28, the Annual Meeting of the shareholders was held. Attention was drawn to the fact that it was the centenary meeting of the Library. A suggestion was made that this Library should amalgamate with the Portico Library.

WEST HAM.—Mr. W. H. Bagguley, formerly of Wandsworth and Wimbledon Public Libraries, has been appointed sub-librarian. J. V. Leslie has been sentenced to two months' imprisonment for having obtained the position of assistant librarian in the West Ham Public Library by means of three false testimonials.

Abstracts of Public Library Reports.

N.B.—[For Tabular Abstract of Statistics see page 136.]

ALLOA : Librarian, W. SIMPSON.—Extension of hours of issue has been accompanied with good results. The opening of the building on public holidays meets the wants of a considerable number of people. In the Billiard Room the attendance has been good, 4,481 games have been played, the receipts amounting to £56, nearly one-third of the amount the rate realises. Twenty-five per cent. of the works are not in one volume editions.

BELFAST : Librarian, GEORGE H. ELLIOTT.—Slight decrease in issues in Lending Library and Juvenile Department, "accounted for by the use the public have made of the Reference Library during this—the first year of its existence." A decrease in the visits recorded to the News Room "assigned to the charge for the use of the Lavatory (!) also, to the attractions of the Art Gallery and Museum." Rev. Canon Grainger, D.D., has presented his Library of about 3,000 vols. Of the 1,823 female readers, 3 of them are over 71 years of age, and 1,084 have "No Occupation." Not one of the 101 vols. of Prose Fiction in the Reference Library has been issued; the greatest run is on Arts (*not* Fine Arts), Sciences, and Natural History. No financial statement given.

BRIERLEY HILL : Librarian, JOSEPH H. DUDLEY.—During the last nine years the Library has increased from 1,053 to 1,881 volumes. The Committee report an unexpended balance of £5 from the rate of £119. Two-fifths of the rate is returned to the Local Board for "Rent, Gas, Firing, &c.," whilst only £17 19s. 3d. is allotted to "Salary and sundries." Since the adoption of the Acts in 1875 or 1876 (authorities differ) there have been 1,370 borrowers, of which 1,070 are still in force. No statement of issues given.

CHELTENHAM : Librarian, WILLIAM JONES.—Decrease in issues accounted for "by the renewal of all Borrowers' Cards from the 1st of last year," and to the "exceptionally severe weather experienced during last winter." 1,300 vols. have been bound or re-cased at a cost of £73 8s. 4d. A special appeal made for works relating to Cheltenham. The County Council Grant has been spent on Technical Books, which are being well used. Non-resident subscriptions amount to £7. No financial statement given.

CLITHEROE : Librarian, JAMES ROBINSON.—The Committee would be glad if the borrowers would exercise more care in the use of the books. New book-cases and additional lights have been provided.

DERBY: Librarian, W. CROWTHER.—Last instalment of loan paid. Librarian's salary raised from £200 to £240. University of Cambridge lent some of the more valuable books used as text-books for the courses of University Extension Lectures. It is hoped at an early period to light the building with the electric light. The Committee report that they will "then be able to devote much of the money now spent on cleaning and book-binding to other objects of the institution." The continued liberality of Mr. Felix Joseph's gifts to the Art Gallery calls for a special reference.

DONCASTER: Librarian, W. E. WILLIAMS.—In November, a complete catalogue of the Lending Library issued. Special efforts made to secure every work relating to Doncaster and the neighbourhood. Subscriptions from outside borrowers amount to £21. Balance in hand at beginning of year of £40, increased to £67 at end of year.

EXETER: Librarian, T. LLOYD JONES.—The electric light has been introduced into the Library, the cost of installation being defrayed by subscription. The Bazaar and Fancy Fair realised £1,000 after payment of expenses. Issue of fiction very small as compared with other libraries. The decrease accounted for "by many of the books being old, and repeatedly read, and by the Library having been open thirteen days less than in the preceding year."

FOLKESTONE: Librarian, STUART G. HILLS.—Library closed for three months for re-organisation and re-cataloguing. New edition of catalogue issued. The voluntary rate realised £139.

HARROGATE: Librarian, C. FREDERIC HARRISON.—Supplementary catalogue issued. Complaints—"we can hardly ever get a book we want"—have subsided, as the Committee have purchased 529 vols. No financial statement rendered.

HEREFORD: Librarian, J. COCKCROFT.—New catalogue of lending department issued. Several minor improvements made in the Reading Room. The stock of books is not classified; but one is curious to know how many vols. are allotted to "Dictionaries, Encyclopædias, &c." (with an issue of 2,115). The "&c." is doubtless comprehensive, though there is a heading "Miscellaneous Literature" (with an issue of 3,856).

HINDLEY: Librarian, JOHN SMITH.—The decrease attributed to improved state of trade. The receipts for games in the Billiard Room amount to £49. List of works given by the Wigan Free Library Committee fills three pages. No financial statement given.

IPSWICH: Librarian, WILLIAM FENTON.—This forms part of "three separate reports—on the Museum, Schools of Science and Art, and the Free Library. Accommodation for readers has been much improved by additional windows, chairs, and reading-desks." No information given about the Reference Department, except that two catalogues were sold for 1s. On page 4 the issues for the year are so spread out under months as to fill the (folio) page; it would be a better plan to arrange them in a schedule, as in other library reports. The special Book Fund realised £66.

KIDDERMINSTER: Librarian, ALFRED PENNY.—Everything appears to be progressing satisfactorily. At the end of the year, £250 was placed on deposit.

LEEK: Librarian, A. S. MCLEOD (now KINETON PARKES).—Book Club formed in connection with the library. Experiment of Sunday opening tried from December 28th till May, hours open 2 to 5.30 p.m. and

7.30 to 9.30 p.m. The late Mr. Nicholson's representatives have supplemented the rate by a donation of £183. The latter half of the programme of the Nicholson Institute, Leek, is devoted to the Free Library. Pages 24-31 are filled with a useful catalogue of Books on Art, Science and Technology.

LOUGHBOROUGH: Librarian, ZEBEDEE MOON.—The Committee do not issue a full report, but circulate a "Return of Issues," which includes a balance sheet.

MANCHESTER: Librarian, CHARLES WILLIAM SUTTON.—Diminution in issues partially explained by the closing, for re-decoration, of the Reference Library, and one of the Branches during one month. New catalogues for Deansgate and Chorlton branches have been printed. The Trustees of the Longsight Mechanics' Institution and the Rusholme Public Hall have transferred their properties to the Corporation, and these institutions will shortly be opened as Branch Libraries and Reading Rooms. The Corporation have acquired Parliamentary power to increase the rate from one penny to two pence in the pound. An Appendix of eight pages gives an interesting account of the opening of the Newton Heath Branch Free Library.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE: Librarian, W. J. HAGGERSTON.—A short summary of the results accomplished in the first ten years, ending on 10th September, 1890. Decrease in issue attributed to "the very marked change for the better in the condition of the employment of the industrial classes of the district." "The Gibsons Conches"—a collection of 7,260 full-sized original water-colour drawings of shells, by the late Sir George Gibsons [Bart.,] have been presented to the Reference Library. The catalogue of the Thomlinson Library, 4,393 vols., is in progress. Additions have been made to the "Riddell" and "Walter Scott" Libraries, also to the collection of locally printed books. The electric light installation is awaiting the consent of H. M. Treasury to the necessary loan.

RUNCORN: Librarian, J. D. JONES.—Library open for issue of books on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 7 to 9.30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 2 to 4, and from 6 to 9.30. Issues smaller than last year.

SMETHWICK: Librarian, JOSEPH BAILEY.—Regret expressed at death of Mr. Charles Carr, a member of the Committee for several years. 1,000 copies of catalogue of Juvenile Books printed for £4 16s. 4d. Property has been purchased for a new Branch Reading Room at the Six Ways. The analysis of the Occupations of Borrowers in Library Reports often reveals the names of trades practically unknown except in certain localities, e.g., in this report occurs "Oliver men."*

SOUTH SHIELDS: Librarian, THOMAS PYKE.—The Committee show, in forcible terms, the need of enlarging the space allotted to library purposes, owing to the larger number of readers, the increased stock and issue of books, a greater attendance at the News Room; also the growing population of the town. Two new book-cases and another indicator added.

STOCKPORT: Librarian, J. D. BUCKLAND.—The ventilation of the Library Building has been improved to the satisfaction of the Committee. A steady, though slow advance in the circulation of the higher class literature, whilst that of fiction shows a falling off.

* Mr. Bailey informs us that "Oliver men" are the men who work the "tilt-hammer" invented by a Mr. Oliver.—ED.

SWANSEA : Librarian, S. E. THOMPSON.—The Report states that the "Committee in its recent reports have made many suggestions which still remain, not only unacted on, but unconsidered." £100 spent in new books, with the result that the number of readers has been substantially increased; but under the head of books on page 25, only the sum of £7 8s. 3d. appears. The adverse balance of £988 reduced to £512.

WEST BROMWICH : Librarian, D. DICKINSON.—The papers are "frequently monopolised by large numbers of the betting fraternity." "The Committee regret the existence of the nuisance, but feel they have no jurisdiction in the matter." A list of magazines wanted to complete imperfect sets given. Two theological works—Matthew Henry's *Commentary on St. John*, and *Treasury of Bible Knowledge* have been mutilated. The Committee ask the pertinent question, "Is it necessary to add that these thefts have been committed by biblical students?" An extension of the Library is urgently needed.

Letters to the Editor.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

I have little desire to enter into a controversy about the ethical principles which should regulate the use of librarian's published statistics; more especially when there appears every probability that such a controversy would be carried on by one set of disputants under a sense of injured *amour propre*. I have always understood that one important purpose of publishing *trustworthy* statistics is to make them available for comparison. Seemingly some public librarians are of a very different opinion, and they may be right for anything I know.

Halifax.

J. WHITELEY.

SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARIES.

I should be glad if you could, through THE LIBRARY, obtain a list of public libraries in connection with which subscription departments have been established.

T. A.

[We shall be glad to publish a list of these, if readers will kindly supply the material.—EDITOR.]

CATALOGUE CRITICISM.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me space for a reply to the "critical" notes on the Bermondsey Library Catalogues.

The Catalogues were compiled in considerably less time than I have ever before occupied in a similar work. They were in fact made against time, and consequently copies were not sent out for review either to THE LIBRARY or to any one else. I ask your readers is it just or right to criticise a man's work under these circumstances?

Your reviewer pronounces adverse judgment upon matters which are open questions, but upon which his mind, at least, is fully made up.

It does not appear to have dawned upon your reviewer that the many subject headings are intentional; such as Natural History, Zoology, Animals, &c. I would have put in many more similar subject headings

had I but the time. It is my custom to catalogue books under headings where my readers are likely to look for them. The Catalogues are intended to be easy guides for real live readers.

I think in fairness your "critical" notices of catalogues should be signed. They may be written by some one whose knowledge and professional ability entitle his opinion to respect, or it may be that the name of the writer would not carry weight with his colleagues.

JOHN FROWDE.

Bermondsey.

[We have again read the review which Mr. Frowde complains of, and confess ourselves unable to understand his vexation. The reviewer not only speaks favourably of the catalogues under notice, but goes out of his way to give praise to Mr. Frowde's past work at Barrow. He takes for granted that haste, and haste only, is to blame for the defects in the Bermondsey Catalogues, and in this Mr. Frowde justifies him by admitting that they were made "against time." The pernicious habit of rushing out catalogues is a growing evil that should be checked, and is rarely the fault of the Librarian. The case in point proves that even a Cataloguer of tried capacity does himself injustice under such circumstances, and in the irony of fate it may happen that his bad catalogue will remain to condemn him when the circumstances have been forgotten and his good work has disappeared. Surely the American plan of "rough hand lists" is sufficient for the needs of a newly opened library—they serve their purpose and enable the librarian to set about his real catalogue with at least one essential condition to success—plenty of time.—*Editor.*]

LEGALITY OF CHARGING FOR TICKETS.

In looking through the recent reports of some Free Libraries I notice that it is usual to charge for application forms at Lambeth, and for borrowers' tickets at Sunderland and elsewhere.

As books cannot be borrowed from these Libraries without an application form and a borrower's ticket being first obtained, to charge for the form or for the ticket seems very much like charging for the use of the Libraries. Is such a charge legal? Should not our Free Libraries be absolutely free?

ASSISTANT.

Birmingham, May, 1892.

Library Association of the United Kingdom.

The April Monthly Meeting was held at 20, Hanover Square, on the 11th. Mr. Joseph Gilbert in the Chair.

A VALUABLE GIFT.

Mr. MacAlister announced that he had received from the American Bureau of Education a gift of 236 copies of Cutter's *Cataloguing Rules* for distribution among the members of the Association; also a gift from Mr. Melvil Dewey of 100 copies of *Bulletin No. 1* of the New York State Library School. This Bulletin contains a complete account of the Library School, with a detailed description of its working and specimens of the examination papers and syllabuses.

Very hearty votes of thanks were unanimously accorded for these generous gifts. The remainder of the time was occupied in discussing the business of the Association.

Note.—Any member of the Library Association can have one copy of each of the above gifts, either on personal application at 20, Hanover Square, or on sending an addressed wrapper to the Hon. Secretaries. If no reply is received it must be understood that the supply is exhausted.

THE ANNUAL MEETING, 1892.

Members have already been informed by circular that the next Annual Meeting will be held in Paris early in September. The exact dates have not yet been fixed, but they will probably fall between the 5th and 12th. Although this Annual Meeting, unlike those hitherto held, is not the result of a direct invitation, a most cordial reception is already assured, for not only the representatives of library interests, but the French Government as represented by the Minister of Public Instruction, and the Prefect of the Seine offer us a hearty welcome, and promise to do all in their power to make the occasion both useful and pleasant. We print below some of the letters that have been received.

The Prefect of the Seine has sent us a few copies of an interesting Report in order to provide us in advance with clear and accurate information about the system of municipal libraries of Paris, a close study of which will be one of the chief objects of our visit. We hope to publish a translation of this Report (by permission of the Prefect) in our next issue.

Already about 200 members have given notice of their intention to attend the Paris Meeting, and we would remind members that early intimation greatly facilitates the work of the organizers, and so conduces to the comfort and convenience of all concerned.

As already stated in the circular issued to members, a contract has been arranged by which the cost of the return trip, including all travelling expenses, hotel accommodation and English breakfast for a week, will not exceed £5.

LETTERS OF WELCOME FROM PARIS.

MINISTÈRE DE L'INSTRUCTION PUBLIQUE ET DES BEAUX-ARTS.

PARIS, LE 27 FEVRIER, 1892.

MONSIEUR,—Vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'annoncer que les Membres de la "Library Association of the United Kingdom" avaient décidé de tenir leur congrès annuel à Paris vers le mois d'août ou de septembre, afin de pouvoir étudier sur place de système d'organisation de la Bibliothèque nationale et des différentes Bibliothèques municipales.

Je m'empresse de vous donner l'assurance que l'accueil le plus sympathique et le plus empressé vous est dès à présent réservé à vous et à vos collègues.

Mr. l'Administrateur Général de la Bibliothèque nationale et Mr. le Préfet de la Seine, avec lesquels je me suis concerté, sont tout disposés à prendre, chacun en ce qui le concerne, des mesures qui répondront pleinement à votre attente.

Je suis personnellement heureux de profiter de l'occasion pour témoigner de l'intérêt tout particulier que je porte à une association qui se recommande d'une façon exceptionnelle par ses remarquables travaux et dont je vous serai très reconnaissant de vouloir bien me communiquer les Réglemens.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération la plus distinguée.

Le Ministre de l'Instruction Publique
et des Beaux-Arts.

Monsieur Mac Alister.

LÉON BOURGEOIS.

LE 29 MARS, 1892.

MONSIEUR,—En réponse à la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le 12 Mars courant, je m'empresse de vous annoncer que je mettrai volontiers une salle de réunion à la disposition du Congrès qui doit avoir lieu à Paris, en août ou septembre.

Il ne me sera possible, toutefois, de désigner cette salle que lorsque vous m'aurez indiqué, approximativement du moins, le nombre des Membres de la "Library Association of the United Kingdom" qui doivent prendre part au Congrès.

Je vous serai obligé, en conséquence, de vouloir bien me fournir ce renseignement.

Agréez, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération la plus distinguée.

Le Ministre de l'Instruction Publique
et des Beaux-Arts.

Pour le Ministre et par autorisation :

Le Directeur du Secrétariat et de la Comptabilité.

Monsieur Mac Alister.

CHARMES.

LE 7 AVRIL, 1892.

MONSIEUR,—Mr. le Préfet de la Seine vient de me renouveler l'assurance que son administration réservait l'accueil le plus empressé aux Membres de votre Association qui se réuniront en Congrès, à Paris, vers les mois d'août ou septembre.

Je suis heureux de vous en faire part.

Afin de permettre à MM. vos Collègues d'étudier, à l'avance, le fonctionnement du service des Bibliothèques municipales de Paris, Mr. le Préfet me prie de vous transmettre trois exemplaires de la notice ci-jointe, qui a été imprimée à l'occasion de l'Exposition de Moscou.

Agréez, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération la plus distinguée.

Le Ministre de l'Instruction Publique
et des Beaux-Arts :

Pour le Ministre et par autorisation :

Le Directeur du Secrétariat et de la Comptabilité.

Monsieur Mac Alister.

CHARMES.

DIRECTION DE LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE
L'ADMINISTRATEUR GÉNÉRAL.

PARIS, LE 21 JANVIER, 1892.

MONSIEUR MAC ALISTER,—J'ai eu l'honneur d'assister en 1877 au Congrès des Bibliothécaires du Royaume Uni et je n'ai pas cessé depuis cette date de me tenir au courant de ses travaux. Je connais donc assez bien les services que vous avez rendus à la cause des Bibliothèques, et l'estime générale dont vous êtes entourés, pour vous donner l'assurance que votre visite sera reçue avec la plus cordiale sympathie par vos collègues parisiens et tout particulièrement à la Bibliothèque nationale, dont nous serons très heureux, mes collaborateurs et moi, de vous faire les honneurs.

Il ne m'appartient pas de préjuger officielle que vous sera faite par le Ministre de l'Instruction publique ; mais je n'ai pas voulu mettre le moindre retard à vous exprimer mes sentiments personnels et ceux des fonctionnaires de la Bibliothèque nationale.

Veuillez agréer, je vous prie, Monsieur le Secrétaire, l'assurance de mes sentiments les plus distingués et les plus dévoués. L. DELISLE.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor.
Advertisements and letters on Business to the Publisher, 20, Hanover Square, W.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORTS.

NOTE: Under "Year ending," the first figure refers to the month, the second to the year: e.g., "3-90" = March, 1890. When no figure appears under a heading it means that the required information cannot be obtained from the report.

Name.	No. of Rept.	Year Ending.	No. of Pages.	No. of Branches.	Number of Volumes in Stock.				Volumes Issued.			Per cent. of Fiction.	No. of Borrowers.	Product of Rate.	Total Income including Balance brought forward.
					Reference Library.	Lending Library.	Branches.	Total.	Reference Library.	Lending Library.	Branches.				
Alloa ...	2	5-91	12	...	763	7,068	...	7,831	668	42,595	...	81	1,238	£ 172	£ 264
Belfast ...	3	11-91	31	...	10,531	14,912	...	25,443	18,515	199,399	...	59	6,669	...	...
Brierley Hill ...	14	(?) -91	6	...	...	...	...	1,881	...	...	...	...	1,070	112	124
Cheltenham ...	7	10-91	15	...	7,498	11,415	...	18,913	9,100	125,884	...	66	4,655	1,038	...
Cliheroe ...	13	10-91	2	...	...	...	...	5,543	...	...	...	...	1,020	...	...
Derby ...	20	9-91	35	...	9,322	16,160	...	25,482	13,520	133,594	...	86	7,500	1,555	...
Doncaster ...	21	12-90	12	...	2,582	13,430	...	16,012	1,057	63,709	...	77	1,823	444	576
Exeter ...	21	3-91	17	...	5,405	9,840	...	15,245	13,777	20,409	...	40a	1,207	654	782
Folkestone ...	9	3-91	9	...	1,207	4,944	...	6,151	221	21,696	...	64	183	591	1,286 b
Harrogate ...	4	10-91	3	...	...	...	...	5,508	650	94,110	...	78	3,399	...	...
Hereford ...	19	3-91	16	...	3,541	5,278	...	8,819	...	38,729	...	86	...	414	721
Hindley ...	3	7-91	15	...	...	2,044	...	...	...	10,842	...	89	2,218*	8	1,223 c
Ipswich ...	3	6-91	3	...	...	5,445	...	...	...	61,995	...	88	291*	0	446
Kidderminster ...	10	10-91	18	...	424	4,613	...	5,037	655	34,784	...	72	227*	155	358
Leek ...	3	3-91	16	...	2,436	5,014	...	7,450	6,270	23,276	...	57	...	280	335
Loughborough ...	(?)	3-91	6	...	988	4,283	...	5,271	1,479	39,703	...	74	39,326	...	...
Manchester ...	39	9-91	42	...	95,399	107,811e	2,908f	206,118	284,829	1,101,791e	122,594f	52	12,066	3,056	5,681 g
N'we'll-on-Tyne ...	10	3-91	32	...	35,961	33,649	...	69,610	52,253	202,210	...	75	769*	191	226
Runcorn ...	9	6-91	14	...	776	5,083	...	5,859	225	23,990	...	61	...	388	591
Smethwick ...	(?)	3-91	14	2	475	6,607	...	7,082	...	53,680	...	57	577*	350	1,341 h
South Shields ...	18	9-91	8	1	6,577	12,993	...	19,570	15,032	88,972	...	74	1,033*	961	992
Stockport ...	15	(?) -91	20	...	8,406	14,469	...	22,875	21,478	71,964	...	60	1,806	1,250	2,762
Swansea ...	17	9-91	25	4	22,752	7,483	2,378	32,613i	113,580j	50,941	8,191	62	1,187*	790	850
West Bromwich ...	17	11-91	28	3	2,675	10,617	851	14,143	1,958	52,762	...	...	...	...	...

* New Borrowers. a—Including General Literature and Poetry. b—Including Balance, £416, Voluntary Rate, £168. c—Including School of Art, £191. d—Including 3 Reading Rooms. e—Lending Department consists of 6 Libraries. f—In 3 Reading Rooms. g—Including Balance, £2,430. h—Including Kents, £232. i—Also 1,984 pamphlets. j—Including 93,309 current Periodicals issued in the Reference Department.

Local Records and Free Public Libraries.*

ONE of the many advantages to be derived from the establishment of Free Libraries is the facility they afford for studying local history.

Every one should take an interest in the city, town or parish of which he is a native or resident, and you will agree with me that the artisan or working man will be a better citizen for knowing how the place in which he lives and works has risen to its present state—how from the hamlet it has become a busy life centre. On the other hand, if there has been decay it is well that he should know the causes that have led to that decay.

It is well, then, that every library should have on its shelves a goodly array of books on local history, and that its walls should be adorned with prints and drawings of the neighbourhood at various times. But seeing that all histories, whether local or national, are founded upon records, and that they can only be held reliable in proportion as their authors had a full or only partial knowledge and acquaintance with these records, and rightly understood them, it seems to me that the readers in our libraries who wish to learn the sources from which these histories were drawn, should have the means of doing so ready at their hand.

Now I will make bold to say that three-fourths of them do not know that such records exist, much less where they are to be looked for, and I will go somewhat further, and say that not many librarians could give them the desired information. Yet it is perfectly true that each parish possesses within its own area a number of documents of great antiquity, and of the highest value to the historian, the genealogist and the antiquary. To mention only a few of these. There are the registers of the various churches, which in some instances extend over centuries; then there are the churchwardens' books of accounts, some of which are even older, overseers' books, and other documents.

* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association at Nottingham, September, 1891.

You will remember, during our visit to Reading last year, we were shown, in the Church of St. Mary Butts, a number of parchments very much faded and crumpled, that had not long before been unearthed from some odd corner of the church. This is no isolated instance. Then in our vestry halls and town halls are stored other records of local value, and over and above all these, the great depositories of the national records, such as the Rolls Office and our chief libraries, contain vast stores of documents relating, some directly and some indirectly, to every parish in the kingdom.

How these records have suffered in times past from the neglect and carelessness of their custodians is an old story, which I need not repeat, but I must point out that whereas the national records are now safely housed, and their nature is being daily revealed, the local records are very little better off than they were a hundred years ago. True, now and again some zealous antiquary, like Mr. J. Meadows Cowper, of Canterbury, turns up an old church register or warden's book, makes a faithful transcript of it, and prints it at his own expense, or contributes an article upon it to some antiquarian magazine. Or perhaps the vicar of a country parish, wanting copy for his parish magazine, prints therein extracts from his oldest register, but as the magazine finds circulation only amongst his own parishioners, the outside world is still in ignorance of the treasures he possesses. The same may be said of municipal records. Here and there is to be found a town clerk who has overhauled the muniment room and induced the corporation to print an account of some of the most interesting documents stored there.

All this is excellent in its way, but it does not go far enough. It still leaves the bulk of our local records untouched, and in many cases uncared for, and meanwhile time and many other enemies are doing their work; and to prove to you that the neglect from which they have so long suffered is not yet a thing of the past, I will give you one instance that has come under my own observation.

Only a few months back I wrote to the vicar of a church in Suffolk asking for information respecting his parish books, and his reply was that he could not give me the information, as he *had never made a study of the subject*; that was tantamount to saying he knew nothing about the documents in his charge—documents dating back hundreds of years. What, I should like to know, is their probable fate if they are not speedily rescued

from such custody? But to mention another case. In the parish of Paddington, London, there are no records remaining that date back earlier than the last years of the eighteenth century, although there has been a church there from the twelfth century. They have been lost or destroyed.

It is clear, then, that before these local records are available for research, some systematic attempt to make them more widely known must take the place of the isolated efforts that have been the rule for many years past, and I venture to think that the rapid extension of the Free Library movement offers the best means of making such an attempt.

Why should not every library in the kingdom take in hand the records of its own district? Why should there not be on the shelves of every Free Library at least an accurate calendar of the records in its neighbourhood? That such calendars could be compiled I have no doubt whatever, and the way I should set about it would be this. The formation of a local committee, comprising the leading men in the parish, the local clergy and the librarian, would be the first step. This committee should have power to raise the necessary funds for carrying out the work. Next would come the question of workers. These would be found amongst the antiquarians—of whom each parish has one or two—and I believe many persons who use our libraries would be willing to give their time to the work.

The work itself would not present any great obstacles. So far as my experience goes—and I have no doubt many of you will bear me out when I make the statement—the clergy are, as a rule, very willing and ready to give any information about the documents in their custody. The vestries and corporate bodies would be more difficult to deal with, but the representations of the committee, backed up with tact and firmness, would, I believe, be sufficient to obtain all the information required about the records in their possession.

I may say that I have been in communication with the vestry clerk in my parish with a view of getting at the records, so that I am not speaking without experience. I learnt from him that in addition to the books, such as the vestry minute book—at which every ratepayer has a right to look—there is kept an inventory of the older records. Unfortunately I have not had time to pursue the matter further, but if I, as an outsider, could do so much, it is clear that an influential body would be able to do more. The remainder of the material could

be easily obtained, as the Rolls Office and our large libraries are accessible to all. The form of the calendar should be similar to the Calendars of State Papers issued by the Record Commissioners, or to those of the Historical Manuscript Commission. Care should be exercised to obtain accurate information, and where possible the substance of the documents should be briefly given.

I merely offer this as a scheme that has shaped itself in my mind for the better preservation of these documents, without shifting them from their present resting places, and also as a means of making their nature better known to the general public. It may not be feasible as it stands, but at least something of the kind might be tried before those of our local records that still remain to us go the way of so many of their predecessors.

H. R. PLOMER.



A Year's Development of the Public Library Movement in Greater London.*

AS the above title may appear a trifle ambiguous, it had better perhaps be said at the outset that the scope of this paper is to deal with the last twelve months' development of the Public Library movement in the County of London and its suburbs; to chronicle the successes and failures of what has probably been the busiest year since the passing of the first Public Library Act (as far as London is concerned), and, finally, to attempt to show as exactly as possible the position and usefulness of the Public Libraries of Greater London at the present time.

When the Library Association assembled in conference at Reading, last September, the number of Metropolitan parishes in which the Public Libraries' Acts had been adopted was 21, and if we include the "outer ring" the total is brought up to 29. This was the result of 40 years' work, and that this number should have been increased to 38 in the year just passed is a fact at which we may well feel gratified. The first place to adopt the Acts in the new library year was Newington (Surrey). The vote was taken in October, and resulted in a favourable majority of 793. With commendable promptitude the Commissioners were appointed; a loan of £5,000 has been sanctioned, and the library building is now, I believe, in course of erection. In November West Ham considered the movement, and decided by a large majority of 7,000 to adopt it. A librarian has been appointed, and there is every appearance of the Acts being put into operation at an early date. Probably the magnificent success here achieved had something to do with bringing Poplar to a decision on the matter, for in the following month this extensive east-end parish declared in favour by a majority of more than 10 to 1. With this victory the year 1890 closed, the adoptions of the Acts averaging one a month in London alone.

* Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Nottingham, September, 1891.

The first effort in 1891 recurred at Willesden, early in February, and was successful by a majority of more than 2 to 1. The struggle here was conducted by Mr. North, who secured the co-operation of the local press, quickly made up an important-looking list of supporters, and coaxed many influential waverers into either silence or support. The canvassing was expeditiously accomplished, and, ere the spirit of opposition was fairly aroused, the poll was taken, resulting, to the surprise of local bumbledom, in a majority of two-thirds of the poll in favour of the rate. Three libraries are planned for this extensive suburban parish, and one, at least, will probably be opened soon.

In April another east-end parish adopted the Acts by the comfortable majority of over 1,000 votes. This was Shoreditch, which, taking advantage of the latest Amendment Act, adopted the rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in the £. Shoreditch has a population of 120,000 souls, and those who know the district best will most appreciate the necessity of free libraries in its midst. The next to follow were Holborn (St. Andrew's), and Bloomsbury (St. Giles's). The poll was taken simultaneously in both parishes, and both declared in favour of the rate. Though the amount of the rate was optional, both voted for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £, many, however, voting for the limit of 1d. It is possible that the two parishes will unite to secure a good library, the smallness of the rate not being considered enough to maintain two libraries with any degree of efficiency.

In June another east-end parish was polled, with the result that the honourable reputation achieved by this part of London during the past two years was ably sustained. Bromley-by-Bow decided in favour of the Acts by more than 2 to 1, making the eighth adoption during the year. West Ham, Poplar, Shoreditch, and Bromley are all in Eastern London, and the result of their voting gives colour to the statement that the wise men still come from the east. The last place to adopt the Acts was Wood Green, when a majority of 2 votes to 1 carried the day after a short and easy struggle.

These are the victories of the year, and it will generally be conceded that the record is a good one. The satisfaction with which we view these figures is however tempered with regret at the remembrance that the year's movement has been by no means an unbroken round of successes. The failures have unfortunately been not a few, and have occurred in some of the largest and most important parishes of London. Islington,

Hackney, Marylebone, Paddington, and Greenwich were of themselves enough to prove that the reverses have been of great importance; but even this list does not exhaust the story of Metropolitan defeats.

The first defeat of the year occurred at Deptford (St. Paul's), in November. In 1886 the scheme was defeated at a small poll; and in spite of the fact that almost all the neighbouring parishes have adopted the Acts, and that so much of London had of late embraced the privileges of the library system, the previous decision was confirmed by a majority of 666 votes. The evil influence of this failure was no doubt felt when the proposal to adopt the Acts was brought to an issue at Greenwich. Lewisham in the south, and Poplar in the north, had recently voted in favour of Free Libraries, but Greenwich refused to follow by a majority of nearly 1,000 votes.

The next failure occurred in quite the opposite side of London—at Marylebone. On the 7th of March the result of the polling was declared as follows:—For the Acts, 3,621; against, 4,701. Majority against, 1,080. Three years before the majority against the scheme had been 3,018, and during this long interval the movement had never been allowed to drop. In 1889 a voluntary library was opened in one of the most crowded portions of the borough, and proved an immediate success. In May, 1890, a second voluntary library was opened in the opposite extremity of the parish, and this soon proved as successful as the other. The demand at both these libraries has all along been in excess of the accommodation, so much so indeed, that, were funds forthcoming, two more libraries would be opened to relieve the pressure. This fact is mentioned to prove the fallacy of the argument that free libraries are perhaps desirable in the east of London, but they are not required in the west. The question was well placed before the ratepayers here. The requisition was signed by a number of gentlemen of national fame; each political party was invited to assist; many of the clergy were good enough to advocate our claims, and the record of good work done by the experimental libraries was ostentatiously paraded to the public eye. The local association spent over £50 upon placing propagandist literature before each voter, whilst, on the other hand, the parish was flooded with opposition circulars from two different sources; one denying *in toto* the usefulness of free libraries, the other repudiating this, but arguing that the burden of their support should not fall

upon the rates. The result, failure as it was, was not altogether discouraging, and a fresh attempt is sure to be made in the near future.

The adjoining parish of Paddington was the next to fail. A previous effort had been made here in 1886, but was defeated by 4,000 votes. A voluntary library has been at work since 1887 as a propagator of the library principle in that district, and in May, after much preliminary work, the question was brought before the ratepayers. This time the majority against the scheme was 3,000, a very large percentage recording no vote at all. In Paddington, as in Marylebone, are many *Vere de Veres*, of whom the Laureate's question might well be asked—

“Are there no beggars at your gates,
Nor any poor about your lands?”

There are a good many poor folk in Paddington to whom the establishment of an adequately equipped free library would be a veritable godsend, but at present their claims are ignored.

In June, Islington polled for the second time, but the motion was beaten by more than 3,000 votes. With such an example it was too much perhaps to expect that the neighbouring parish of Hackney should secure a majority in favour of the Acts a week or two later. A spirited attack was, however, made, and the advocates of the scheme were, to use the words of an opponent, “ably led, well organised, and persistent in their efforts.” Unfortunately these same good qualities were possessed by the enemy, who deluged the parish with protests, had “sandwich men” out in opposition, and lost few opportunities of dealing a blow at the movement. It has been stated that over-confidence in the result tended to defeat the scheme, which was lost by 1,373 votes.

The last failure of the year was at Bethnal Green, where, again, a vigorous opposition was aroused. The old trick of creating dissension by the introduction of politics was freely indulged in, and the existence of the voluntary library was urged against the scheme for rate-support, on the principle, I suppose, that it was superfluous to pay for a privilege which others were supporting for them; but out of a poll of upwards of 6,000 the motion was only defeated by 102 votes. It is a fact worth noting that in the S.W. division a majority of 298 declared in favour of the rate, but the north-eastern part had a majority of 400 against, and the scheme was swamped.

This closes the list of contests for the year, giving a result of nine successes and seven failures. Thus it ranks, in point of successes, second only to the memorable year of Her Majesty's Jubilee.

In other directions also the year has been a busy and successful one. In April, Lambeth increased its rate from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1d. in the £, a peculiar success in London. In December last the foundation stone of the Bermondsey public library was laid, and the building is now practically completed. Arrangements have been concluded for a new and more commodious library at Westminster, and library buildings will soon be completed in Newington.

The libraries opened during the year have been many in number and great in importance, as the following list will show.

On October 1st Sir John Lubbock opened the public library at Rotherhithe. On the 10th a similar ceremony was performed by the Lord Mayor at Clerkenwell. In January the Chelsea library was opened by Earl Cadogan. In February, Mr. Gladstone opened the library at St. Martins-in-the-Fields, and in April, Sir Lyon Playfair rendered a like service for Streatham. In addition to these about ten branch libraries were opened, and by these means some 100,000 volumes were for the first time rendered freely available to a large portion of the London public.

According to the recent census returns the population of the County of London is, roughly, $4\frac{1}{4}$ millions, and that of Greater London $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions. As far as the county is concerned 27 parishes out of the 67 into which London is divided have *adopted* the Acts, and by so doing $2\frac{1}{4}$ millions of the inhabitants of London are now, or will be shortly, provided with the advantages of the public library system.

The 29 parishes in which rate-supported libraries have already been *opened* in London and its suburbs contain, in round figures, 330,000 vols. for their 1,801,534 inhabitants; and though some of these libraries are open in temporary premises and do not lend books out, they have upon their books 110,000 persons entitled to borrow books for home reading. The aggregate issue of books during the year just closed was $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions, and the news-rooms have accommodated an estimated attendance of 25,000 readers each day. As many of the libraries have been opened for part of the year only, a still larger return may be looked for next year.

We must not forget to include in these returns the statistics of the voluntary free libraries. Bethnal Green, Marylebone, and Paddington have a joint population of 390,000. With the People's Palace they possess 45,000 vols., and have 3,000 registered borrowers, to whom 150,000 vols. have been lent during the year. In the aggregate, therefore, there are 375,000 vols. for the $5\frac{1}{4}$ millions of the people of great and greater London. Of these, however, much less than half are allowed, by residential qualification, to avail themselves of the privileges of free libraries, the remainder residing in districts in which no free public libraries exist. At the successes of the year we ought to feel gratified, but for the many failures this Association ought to feel a concern which should take some practical form for the prevention of their possible recurrence. No doubt the quinquennial re-assessment has deterred many from voting for the library rate. The London press, too, has not been so uniformly favourable as of old; whilst organised opposition has probably never gone to such lengths before. It does indeed seem strange to find that, after forty years of library work, and after the opening of so many libraries in and around London, an ignorant apathy so often prevails to defeat the scheme. It cannot be urged too strongly upon the Library Association that this prevails to an extraordinary extent, and that the sooner it is grappled with the better will be the chance of success for future efforts. In Marylebone, for instance, out of a possible poll of more than 17,000 voters, only 8,000 odd, or 50 per cent., were sufficiently interested to vote on either side; and an examination of almost any unsuccessful library poll would disclose a similar result.

W. E. DOUBLEDAY.



Report on Size Notation.

[NOTE.—This Report was presented at the Cambridge Meeting of the L.A.U.K., and was put back for further consideration by the Committee, which consisted of the following members of the Association:—Messrs. BULLEN, GARNETT, KNAPMAN, NICHOLSON, TEDDER, THOMAS, CHARLES WELCH, and B. R. WHEATLEY. At the same time MR. CHARLES MADELEY was added to the Committee.

As so long an interval has elapsed since the Report was presented, the Council of the L.A.U.K. think it desirable that it should be reprinted, in order that members may have an opportunity of carefully considering it with a view to a full discussion of the subject, which it is hoped will take place very shortly.]

THE object of the Committee has been to construct a scheme which, in giving a nearly exact definition of size in height, should interfere as little as possible with the nomenclature of the past, and, if practicable, should solve the difficulty of a combination of size and signature-notation in one plan.

They have had to consider what are the chief errors which require a remedy, and it seems to them that they have consisted more in a deficient than in an excessive use of existing terms, and in a want of exactitude in their application:—

1. One error has been a frequent confounding of folios and quartos, or of quartos and octavos, in the cataloguing of the earlier printed books, owing to cropt copies of the former, in either case, simulating the sizes of the latter.

2. A large number of small 8° books have been usually described as 12°.

3. 12° and 18° have been frequently confounded with each other.

4. Octavos, quartos, and folios of all sizes have been merely so denominated, without any modifying terms to define varieties differing several inches in height.

The error first mentioned can be easily remedied by strict observance of the fact that the paper in folios and octavos has perpendicular—and in quartos, horizontal—wire or water lines. The other errors can all be avoided by greater attention to exactitude in noticing both size and signature.

Some differences of opinion have rendered it necessary to leave the question open on one point, by an alternative adoption of two forms of nomenclature, viz., either the use of the term *large*, or of its equivalents, *imperial* and *royal*, the argument for the former being a reduction in the number of terms used in the table; that for the latter, that they are sizes well-known to, and used by, librarians, and tolerably well understood by the literary public, and in that respect differ from the numerous technical terms of the smaller-sized papers in each form, which for library purposes it is desirable to ignore.

When it is considered that a system of size notation for ordinary catalogues should be one that can be made to fit the varieties of size which have been in use in this and other countries during four centuries, the subject can well be understood to be full of difficulties. The Committee, after making experiments on both old and modern books, desire to offer the table at the close of this Report as an attempt at a solution of these difficulties.

The exact naming of book sizes according to the number of leaves to a signature is an impossibility. No stress must be laid on the supposition that the alterations in size of machine-made papers have been the cause of this difficulty of adhering to the old signature notation, for the variation in number of leaves to signature in the smaller sizes made it as difficult to follow strictly signature notation in the olden times as in our own. These varieties have arisen from the different systems of *quiring* and *gathering*, from the adoption of *insets*, and from the printing on one-third, one-half, or two-thirds of the full sheet, and thus the leaves to signatures instead of following the supposed normal rule of 2 to folio, 4 to 4°, 8 to 8°, and 12 to 12°, are often as follows:—

In f°, the leaves to signatures run in *twos*, *fours*, *sixes*, and *eights*.

In 4°, they are in *fours*, *sixes*, and *eights*.

In the larger octavos they are often in *fours*, though the width is less than three-fourths. In other octavos they are usually in *eights*, but half-sheet books occur in *fours*.

In 12° they are in *sixes* or *twelves*.

In 16° they are in *eights* or *sixteens*.

In 18° they are in *sixes* or *twelves*.

In 24° they are in *sixes* or *twelves*.

In 32° they are in *eights* or *sixteens*.

Among the above anomalies the chief trouble met with in old books is the occurrence of works in eights in many differing sizes, and the consequent adoption of the term 8° by purists in cataloguing for all such books, though they may vary to the extent of five inches in height. To say a book is an 8° because it has eight leaves to a signature, is simply to close the question at once without attempting the solution of the difficulties surrounding size notation. Books in eights are of all sizes from the 48° to the folio. But though in any attempt at a system of size-notation, we must give up this signature rule of eight, the Committee think the names of these smaller *eights* should bear an affinity to the term, and be called according to the diminution of their size in even multiples of eight (16 and 32), while books in *twelves* should run in the multiples of six (12, 18, 24). The use of the term 16° for all old books of the 16° height in *eights*, can be modified when they are of the broad form by the term *square* being prefixed.

Though a perfect regularity of gradation in a table of sizes is an object worth attaining, yet, as it interferes with actual fact, the filling up of the scheme by intervals of half an inch between the terms has alone been attempted.

The smaller sizes given embrace the demy-size measurements within each term, and allow for slight varieties in the other paper sizes, for those in papers of modern makers no longer trammelled by the hand-made paper measurements, and for the changes of size usually developed under the manipulations of the binder.

The notation of the table will be found to suit books of all times and of all countries, and it is believed would contribute to the drawing closer of the agreement between size-and-signature-notation; as by noting both the height of the book and the number of leaves following the signature, an appropriate term for every size will be found in the table.

The Committee recommend that the table be printed on a card with the explanation at its back, and circulated among the members of the Association.

EXPLANATION OF THE TABLE OF SIZES.

The table embraces all the sizes of books, in steps of half-inches from each other from 48° to imperial folio (23 in.), and also includes a term for the largest folios (about 30 in.). In

verifying the sizes of the smaller books it is necessary to give especial attention to the question of their being in the *eights* or in the *twelves* series.

Sizes slightly differing from those given, *i.e.*, being between the terms, are to have the one applied to them to which their height is nearest; all cut and bound books thus between two sizes being called by the larger, and all uncut books by the smaller term nearest them.

TABLE OF SIZES OF BOOKS.

Notation.	Height in Inches.	Width.	Leaves to Signature.	Wire line in laid or hand made Papers.	
Folio. { Atlas f° .....(1) La. f° } Imp. f°... (5) or } Roy. f°... (5) F° (2) Sm. f° (3, 4)	Circa 30 21½-23 18½-21 13½-18 8½-13	¾ to 1	{ In twos, fours, sixes and eights. }	Perpendicular.	
Quarto. { La. 4° or } Imp. 4° (5) 4° } Roy. 4° (5) Sm. 4° (2) (3)	13½-16 11½-13 9½-11 7½-9	¾	{ In fours, sixes, and eights. }	Horizontal.	
Octavo et infra.	{ La. 8° or } Imp. 8° (5) 8° } Roy. 8° (5) Sm. 8° (2) 12° (3)	10½-11 9½-10 8-9 6½-7½	¾ to ¾ " " "	In eights, and sometimes fours. " In eights..... " "	Perpendicular. " " "
	16° (6)	5½-6	¾ to ¾	In sixes and twelves	Horizontal.
	18° (6)	5½-6	¾ to ¾	In eights and sixteens {	Horizontal and Perpendicular.
	24° (6)	5½-6	¾ to ¾	In sixes, twelves and eighteens	Horizontal.
	32° (6)	4-5	"	In sixes and twelves	Perpendicular.
	32° (6)	4-5	"	In eights and sixteens	"
	48° or m° (7)	under 4	"		

1. Including "elephant," "columbia," &c.
2. Including "medium," "demy," and "crown."
3. Including "copy," "post," "foolscap" and "pot."
4. Of preceding centuries.
5. Of this century.
6. Including sq. 16°, and all books of this size, in eights.
7. Including 48°, 64°, &c. "Minimo" for the smallest books.

The measurement of the paper, not of the binding-cover, is to be taken.

The width in all 4° books, and of other small books denominated *square* is above $\frac{3}{4}$, i.e. $\frac{4}{5}$ of the height, and the width of other books (the usual shape) from $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of their height. Oblong-shaped books are to be so designated in addition to f°, 4°, 8°, &c., according to their relative size. The modifications, *la.*, *imp.*, *roy.*, and *sm.*, are not applied to sizes below 8°, as being of infrequent occurrence or slight variation, but if on identifying by size and signature, a book cannot otherwise be truthfully described, they can be used.

With regard to books of the usual width, about 10 or 11 inches high, those of the preceding centuries should usually be described as small folios, but those of the present, and perhaps the latter part of the last century, as large, or royal and imperial octavos.

In early printed books, and in all bibliographical curiosities, it is advisable that actual measurement should be given in addition to the nominal size-signature notation of the table.

Inlaid and stilted books are to have both real and factitious sizes noted.



Blades' "Bibliographical Miscellanies."—A Note.

I HAVE just read for the first time (it having escaped my attention when it appeared) the article in the May number of last year, by Mr. Proctor, entitled, "Additional Notes to Blades' 'Bibliographical Miscellanies,'" and as I have several of the works referred to in my own library, I venture to make the following observation.

1. The *Speculum Morale*, 1 vol., 1476.—My copy is bound in two volumes. Only 472 leaves are assigned to this work. It most certainly contains 474 leaves. The date is probably five years earlier than that assigned to it in the article in question. If Mr. Proctor's figures are correct, the copy in Corpus Christi College, Oxford, is imperfect.

2. The *Biblia cum glossa ordinaria*, Hain, x 3173.—I have collated five copies: one in the British Museum, one in the Bodleian, and three copies in my own library, and the leaves in the first volume are 254; not 252, as stated by Mr. Proctor. He has 147-216 d, 217-252 b. This should be 147-218 d, 219-254 b. If Mr. Proctor's figures are correct, the copy in the Library of Corpus Christi is unfortunately incomplete.

W. A. COPINGER.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Bibliographie des Livres à figures Vénitiens de la fin du XV^e siècle et du commencement du XVI^e 1469-1525. Par le duc de Rivoli. Paris: Libraire Techener, 1892, 8vo, pp. xlvii., 541. Price 25 francs.

The Duc de Rivoli's interesting monograph opens with a repetition and an amplification of a statement made some years ago, by the Vicomte Delaborde, in his delightful book, *La Gravure en Italie avant Marc-Antoine*. On page 252 of that work, we are informed that an edition of Valerius Maximus, printed by Vindelinius de Spira, at Venice, in 1471, contains on its third page, in addition to a large ornamental letter, a woodcut border, representing two winged children, genii, rabbits, an escutcheon and other interesting objects. A similar border is said to be found in an edition of *Georgius Trapesuntius*, issued by the same publisher, probably in 1472. To these the Duc de Rivoli now adds the great Pliny and several other works printed at Venice about the same time, to all of which he attributes woodcut borders. Now of all these works, save one, copies are in the British Museum; of some of them (owing to the co-existence of the Cracherode, Grenville, Banksian, and other collections) two copies; of the Pliny no less than three. No one of these copies contain the woodcuts mentioned by the Duke and the Viscount. In some cases the spaces are left blank; in others, they are occupied by different designs, clearly sketched out in ink by hand and then coloured, also by hand. The three copies of the Pliny are all illuminated, and the three designs are all different, not only from the Paris copy, but also from each other. The editions of Johannes de Spira consisted sometimes of 300, sometimes of 600 copies, and it is not likely that those of Vindelinius were larger. It seems inconceivable that some of the copies should have woodcut borders and others not; and we cannot help suspecting (though it is dangerous to dogmatize about books we have not seen) either that the Paris copies have been tampered with, or at least that the borders were added by the illuminator, not the printer. If we are right, the use of engraving in Venetian books has been placed seven years too early, and the Kalendar of Johannes Regiomontanus, published simultaneously in Latin, Italian, and German, in 1476, must be reckoned, not only as the first book with an ornamental title-page, but as the first Venetian book containing engraving.

Putting aside our suspicions on this important point, we have nothing but praise for the Duc de Rivoli's monograph and catalogue. He is absolutely sound in refusing to regard the little *b* or *c* or other letters, which appear on some Venetian woodcuts, as indicating the initial of the designer, and thus avoids the absurdity of attributing the designs of the *Hyperotomachia* to Bellini, and other similar pit-falls. His list of books containing engravings, if not complete, is very full, and his descriptions are always clear and pleasant to read. How interesting his book is, those who know the charm of the early Venetian woodcuts will guess the best. Our only regret is that it does not include books printed at Florence and Ferrara.

Incunabula Biblica, or the first half century of the Latin Bible: being a bibliographical account of the various editions of the Latin Bible between 1450 and 1500. With an Appendix, containing a chronological list of the editions of the Sixteenth Century. By W. A. Copinger, F.S.A. London: Bernard Quaritch, 1892. Fol. pp. x., 226. With 54 plates. Price £2 2s.

The ethics of limited editions and their republication raise some very delicate questions, but we hope sincerely that Mr. Copinger's obligations to the two hundred and fifty purchasers of his work in its present form, will not stand in the way of his re-issuing it in a cheaper and less cumbersome edition. The work contains a great deal of most interesting and valuable information, especially as to the present ownership of the rarer Bibles, the history of existing copies, and the prices they have fetched in various sales. But after all, there are only one hundred and twenty-four Bibles enumerated, and the enormous bulk of this volume forms a hindrance rather than a help to their systematic study. This excessive length is caused, partly by Mr. Copinger's attempt to give his descriptions a literary form, in place of the stereotyped and convenient brevity of a catalogue; partly by his over great concern as to what has been written, erroneously or otherwise, by his predecessors. The fifty-four plates have also added more to the size and cost of the volume than to its importance. We have not actually measured them, but we are strongly under the impression that some are larger, and others (*e.g.*, the Naples Bible of 1476, printed by Matthias Moravus) smaller than their originals, and if this is so their typographical value is of the slightest, while they have little or no beauty to recommend them. But all these superfluities are thrown in, and the solid fact remains that Mr. Copinger's list gives a very carefully compiled account of every known Latin Bible printed in the fifteenth century, together with interesting bibliographical notes. With this, the main feature of his work we have little fault to find after the first few entries, in which Mr. Copinger shows himself unacquainted with much of the recent work accomplished for the history of the earliest Mentz printers. No writer on the 42-line Bible can now afford to pass over unnoticed the doctrine of Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Hessels, that Schoeffer and not Gutenberg was its printer, or the valuable results obtained by Dr. Dziatzko in his monograph on this and the 36-line Bible.

Again, Mr. Copinger writes: "There are two sorts of copies of this Bible to be met with. The first is the issue by Gutenberg himself, probably in 1455, and the second is the issue made by Fust and Schoeffer, in or after the year 1456, when they had taken from the inventor his whole stock of types and copies. The two issues are easily distinguished. In the second, the first five leaves, as well as one at the beginning of the Maccabees, where a division into two volumes might have been intended, were reprinted, so as to occupy, by the means of newly-cut types of abbreviations, only forty lines per column instead of forty-two, as in the original book." Now this may be a good theory or a bad—for ourselves we believe it to be bad—but good or bad, it is a theory and nothing more, Mr. Copinger's way of accounting for facts, not a fact itself. To state it in this absolute manner, as if we had it all under the printer's hand and seal, revives the worst kind of fault committed by the old bibliographers. Our own theory is, that the printer determined to print a certain manuscript Bible page for page. He divided it into sections, and began to print each section at a different press, with forty lines to a page. To do this, it was necessary to resort to a multiplicity of contractions, and when a few pages of each section were printed, the order was given to reprint with

forty-two lines instead of forty. But some of the forty-line columns were used, and hence, at the beginning of the book, at the beginning of Judges (fol. 128, not mentioned by Mr. Copinger), and at the beginning of Maccabees, and, perhaps, at the beginning of other of the sections worked out by Dr. Dziatzko, these forty-line columns are occasionally found. That is our own theory, which we think is quite as good as Mr. Copinger's, but neither the one nor the other ought to be put forward as anything more than a hypothesis. It would be easy to point out similarly unsatisfactory features in Mr. Copinger's account of the thirty-six line Bible; but the space at our disposal is limited, and we have already devoted too much of it to hostile criticism. If we would willingly dispense with one-half of Mr. Copinger's book, the other half appears to us of the greatest interest and importance, and our hope is that, lightened of a little of its ballast, it may occupy the field for many years as a very complete monograph on a most interesting subject.

Handy List of Books on Mines and Mining, Assaying, Metallurgy, Analytical Chemistry, Minerals and Mineralogy, Geology, Palæontology. An Alphabetical Reference Catalogue, arranged under authors and subjects, and including analytical references to the contents of important works. Compiled by H. E. Haferkorn. Including issues from 1880 to May, 1891, and a number of books published before 1880, frequently met with in catalogues; together with a list of periodicals and annuals in these branches; and a short list of important works in the German language. Milwaukee, Wis.: H. E. Haferkorn, 1891; also London: Gay and Bird, 1891, 8vo, pp. 87.

This is a long-winded title for a "Handy List," reminding one of that happily by-gone period, when authors endeavoured to crowd the contents of their books on their title-pages. The work itself is a useful one as far as it goes, but it would have been better if Mr. Haferkorn had confined the List to works upon Mines and Mining. An extract from the preface fairly explains its scope. "The main entry of each work will be found under the author's name, containing full title, year of issue, publisher's or agent's name, editions and price. The publisher or distributing agent of each book is indicated by abbreviations, at the end of the entry, which are explained in an accompanying *key*, containing a list of all publishers and agents represented in this part." The value of the work would have been greatly enhanced if the contents of Mr. Folkard's well-known Mining Catalogue had been incorporated with it. If this be the first American attempt at a Mining Catalogue, Mr. Folkard's is certainly the only English one, and its entry in the British Museum's Hand List of special bibliographies is an indication of the value set upon it. Let Mr. Haferkorn and Mr. Folkard put their heads together and produce, not a "handy list," but a good bibliography of mining books which have appeared in all European languages.

A Subject Index of the Modern Works added to the Library of the British Museum in the years 1885-1890. Compiled by G. K. Fortescue, Superintendent of the Reading Room. *Printed by order of the Trustees*, 1891, 8vo, pp. 700.

The printing of the great Catalogue of Authors at the British Museum

is making steady, and even rapid, progress. With the exception of a few headings, letters A—L and V—Z are already in print, and the early volumes of M are fast coming back from the press. Until this stupendous work be completed—as there is now good hope that it will be within five or six years—it tends to throw into the shade all the other catalogues which proceed from the Museum Library, and yet it may well be that in the future the subsidiary catalogues, which the introduction of printing will have made possible, may come to be collectively more important than the great Catalogue of Authors itself. As Mr. Garnett explained in a paper read before the Library Association at its last London meeting, the system by which a certain number of copies of every volume of the catalogue are printed only on one side of the leaf, makes possible an endless series of sectional catalogues, for which the slips will only have to be cut out from the larger work, arranged, and sent off to press. We may thus hope within a few years to see catalogues of the Museum Incunabula, or of works relating to English history, English literature, and the like; and of the value of these compilations of the future we have a foretaste in the Subject Index of Modern Works added to the Museum during a period of five years, which the existence of the printed Lists of Accessions has now for the second time enabled Mr. Fortescue to produce.

The number of works catalogued under subject headings in the issue of 1886 was estimated at 37,000; in the present volume this has grown to 40,000, although by the use of smaller type and extreme economy of space, the size of the second series is considerably smaller than that of the first. It may be imagined that as a result there is very little to please the eye in Mr. Fortescue's book, but it is certainly no uglier than the average official publication, and like an ironclad may even claim that very severe beauty which arises from the rigorous subordination of means to ends. Of its enormous utility there cannot be any doubt. It is indeed the very abstract and chronicle of contemporary thought, indicating the subjects which have most engaged men's attention during the past five years with absolute impartiality, and this not only in the case of our own country, but for the rest of the world as well, so long as books are written in languages of Teutonic, Latin or Scandinavian origin. Editions of the Bible and its component parts, and individual biographies, novels, plays, and poems, are excluded as not belonging properly to a subject-index, but all other works come under Mr. Fortescue's notice. In the first issue the principles of an index, as opposed to a class-catalogue, were very rigorously adhered to. In the present volume class headings have been sparingly introduced, but with cross-references, which renders the slight difference of plan between the two series quite harmless. To take two instances: Hours of Labour, Housing of the Working Classes, Law relating to Employers and Employed, Strikes, Trade Unions, and Wages are now all included under the heading CAPITAL AND LABOUR AND WORKING CLASSES; while under MILITARY SCIENCE we now find, in addition to general treatises, no less than thirteen subdivisions, such as Armies of various Countries, Artillery, Cavalry Engineering, &c. Mr. Fortescue seems to us, in his present plan, to have fairly arrived at the happy mean between a strict subject-index and a classified catalogue, and we shall be sorry if in future editions he greatly enlarges the number or scope of his class-headings, some of which already contain several hundred entries. A subject-index, with cross-references between cognate headings, such as Mr. Fortescue very frequently gives, or possibly with a classified table of all the headings employed, unites to our thinking the simplicity of the alphabet with quite as much philosophy as any two professors can be found to agree upon: and to attempt more than this is to court failure. But in his first issue

Mr. Fortescue was perhaps somewhat too rigid a purist, and his slight alterations in the present volume are very practical and convenient.

To notice a few headings which may be specially interesting to our readers, we find that under BIBLIOGRAPHY there are some seventy entries, divided into General Treatises, Bibliographies of Bibliography, Catalogues of Selected Works, *i.e.*, guides to reading, and Lists of Incunabula and Rare and Curious Books. Cross-references are given at the end of the heading to Anonyms, Block-books, Book-plates, Book-selling, Libraries and Typography. Under LIBRARIES the entries number about a hundred, about forty of which deal with Library Management, and the rest with Accounts and Reports of Libraries, both at home and abroad. Under MANUSCRIPTS it is rather surprising to find nearly a hundred entries of special catalogues and descriptions. Under TYPOGRAPHY there are about five-and-twenty technical treatises on the art of printing, and about twice as many works on its history. All these subjects are comparatively small ones, and the numbers which we have recorded give some idea alike of the activity of book-production, of the rate at which the Museum increases its treasures from one *lustrum* to another, and of the usefulness of Mr. Fortescue's laborious compilation.

Messrs. Cross and Jackman, of Canterbury, have lately published a small pamphlet entitled "A Short Account of the Records of Canterbury," compiled by Mr. Henry R. Plomer, from the "Reports" of the Historical Manuscripts Commissioners and other sources. Its aim is to supply visitors to the city with a brief description of the various collections of Canterbury Manuscripts, the local guide books furnishing little or no information on the subject.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Public Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

ARLECDON AND FRIZINGTON.—On 30th May, Mrs. Dixon formally opened the new Free Library. There are 1,100 vols., and Mr. Wilson Johnston is librarian.

BOOTLE.—The fifth season's free lectures have just come to a successful close. The annual report just presented to the Committee shows an increase of more than 9,000 issues on the year, March, 1891, to March, 1892. The children's department in the Library is a great and growing success. The year's income amounted to more than £2,140; £400 of this derived from the residue under the Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act. The book purchases have been more than double those of the previous year, though the average cost was high, owing

to the excellent quality of the literature provided, and the large accession of technical books. The Committee now require their junior assistant to pass the preliminary examination of the Library Association within two years of his engagement; and they have agreed upon a scale of annually increasing wages for each member of the staff.

BRECHIN.—A circular with a sketch of the library building has been issued asking "all persons connected with the 'Ancient City,' both at home and abroad, to help."

COLCHESTER.—On March 14th, a meeting was held in the schoolroom, Mile End, in connection with the opening of the Mile End branch of the Colchester Public Library. The comfortable and well furnished reading-room is situated in a house close by, and was declared open by Mr. Brabrook Daniell.

CORK.—On May 6th, the Corporation of Cork carried unanimously a resolution that $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the pound be granted for the purposes of a public library. This would produce about £300. The Public Library Act was adopted in 1855, and a School of Art only established.

DUNDEE.—Mr. Martin White has offered to give £250 for the purpose of establishing libraries in the Board Schools, provided the Board give an equal sum. The School Committee of the Dundee School Board have expressed the opinion that the £250 required to meet Mr. White's offer should be raised outside the Board.

EDINBURGH.—On May 12th, the new S. S. C. Library was opened by the Lord Justice General of Scotland, the Right Hon. J. P. B. Robertson.

EDINBURGH.—A portrait of Mr. Carnegie, bearing the following label, has been presented to the Public Library: "Andrew Carnegie. Presented to the Edinburgh Free Library, by Charles S. Smith, of New York. Painted by Thomas W. Wood, President National Academy of Design."

ELGIN.—On May 13th, Provost Law opened the Free Public Library, established under the Public Libraries Act. The supper room of the Town Hall has been rented for library purposes; the Library contains about 4,000 vols. Miss Mitchell, Newspynie, has been appointed librarian.

ENFIELD.—At a recent poll 1,576 voted in favour of adopting the Public Libraries Acts and 1,194 against, being a majority in favour of 382 votes.

EXETER.—The portion of the will of the late Mr. Kent-Kingdom relating to his bequest to the Albert Memorial Museum is printed in the *Western Times* of February 16, and nearly fills a column. The sum of £6,000 is to be spent on building a wing, and with his other bequest, books are to be bought, "but no theological works or works of fiction, of any sort or kind, and no newspaper."

HORSHAM.—The residents of this town, the birthplace of Shelley, are taking steps to celebrate the approaching centenary of the poet's birth. It is proposed to establish a free public library as a local memorial.

INVERURIE.—Mr. Darg has resigned the post of librarian of the Public Library, and has been succeeded by Mr. John Beaton, accountant.

LONDON : CAMBERWELL.—The Commissioners of Public Libraries have announced that they intend to proceed with the erection of a central library for Camberwell. The site selected is in a very central position, being on the Peckham roadway, about midway between Church Street, Camberwell, and Rye Lane, Peckham.

LONDON : DEPTFORD.—On May 21st, took place the twenty-second annual meeting of the Library and Club in connection with the works of Messrs. Braby & Co.

LONDON : ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR.—Steps are being taken to establish a Public Library in this parish.

LONDON : ST. MARYLEBONE.—The third attempt to secure the adoption of the Libraries Acts in Marylebone has proved unsuccessful, the result being a great surprise alike to the friends and foes of the movement. There was no organised local opposition, and the Marylebone Library Association worked hard and well for a successful issue. A large public meeting was held just before the poll, at the Polytechnic, when the Duke of Fife was in the chair, supported by the Rt. Hon. G. J. Goschen, Sir John Lubbock, Mr. F. Seager Hunt, M.P., Mr. J. R. Diggle (Chairman of the London School Board), Sir J. Carmichael, Bart., Sir Andrew Clarke, Mr. Frank Debenham, Ald. L.C.C., Mr. Quintin Hogg, Ald. L.C.C., the Rev. Canon Barker, and many other persons of light and leading in the district. Active organised opposition was confined to the "Liberty and Property Defence League," which flooded the parish with its misleading public library leaflet. As a compromise with local opponents the requisition stated that the amount of the rate should be left to the option of the voters, and there is not the slightest doubt that the complications thus involved tended to defeat the Library scheme. The result of the poll was:—For the Acts, 2,950. Against, 3,830. Majority against, 880. 343 voted for $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or $\frac{3}{4}$ d. rate, but as they did not sign for the adoption of the Act as well, their votes were disqualified. 1,200 votes were spoilt in other ways, and nearly 9,000 papers were not delivered, not called for, or returned blank. The moral of this poll is—make the issue as simple as possible, and never bewilder the voter with alternatives. The poll was so unsatisfactory in so many ways that a strenuous effort will be made to keep the libraries open until another poll can be taken next year. Mr. Andrew Carnegie has given £100 to the Library funds.

LONDON : PADDINGTON.—Mr. F. D. Mocatta, who has always taken a warm interest in this Free Library (supported by voluntary contributions), has just contributed a further sum of £40 to its funds. It would be well for the library if it had a few more supporters like Mr. Mocatta.

LONDON : WHITECHAPEL.—On May 9th, a part of the Free Public Library was opened to the public.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—At a recent meeting of the Public Libraries Committee a report was presented from the sub-committee for apportioning the money received from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, under the Customs and Excise Act. The grant is not so large as last year, but,

added to the balance kept in hand, the total amount is greater this year. £150 is to be intrusted to the Free Library for the purchase of books on technical subjects. These volumes will be kept in the reference department, and will be separately catalogued.

PLYMOUTH.—The Mayor of Plymouth (Mr. F. W. Harris) on February 29th, opened a reading room at the Cattedown Board School, granted for the use of the Free Library Committee, and which will be open each evening from 6.30 to 10 o'clock.

PORTSMOUTH.—An interesting article on "Our Public Library" appears in the *Hampshire Post* of March 4.

WALTHAMSTOW.—The High Sheriff of Essex, Mr. T. Courtenay Warner, has offered to give a site for the purposes of a Free Library at Walthamstow, and to contribute £300 towards the building fund.

WALTON-ON-THE-HILL.—At the monthly meeting of the Local Board on April 7th, the clerk read a letter from the Rev. W. Bathgate, suggesting an effort to provide a park, baths, and public library for Walton. The Board replied that they did not see their way at present to move in the matter.

WATERLOO-WITH-SEAFORTH.—A Local Board election took place here at the beginning of April. Three of the candidates made a point in their election addresses, of stating that they considered the time had come for the establishment of a Free Library. Although quite new men, two of them were returned, one (Dr. Simpson) at the head of the poll.

The Bodleian Library.

THE Report of the Curators of the Bodleian Library for 1891 is before us, and as usual, bears abundant testimony to the activity of the present administration. The total amount at the disposal of the Curators amounted to £8,512, of which about £2,000 was expended on the purchase of books and manuscripts. The number of *items* (a word for which we have no love) acquired by the Library during its past year is shown as follows :—

(1) By gift or exchange	...	...	...	18,724
(2) Under the Copyright Act...	...	...	..	34,035
(3) New Purchases	...	...	...	5,565
(4) Second-hand purchases	...	...	...	950
Total	...	...	...	59,274

The principal purchase of the year is a volume of Anglo-Saxon Charters of the 10th and 11th century, many of them relating to Crediton in Devonshire, then a bishop's see. This collection was bought for £220 10s., "which is believed to be the highest sum ever paid by the Bodleian for a single volume, manuscript or printed." A selection of the Charters, it is stated, will be published in *Anecdota Oxoniensia* by Professor Napier and Mr. W. H. Stevenson, who advised the Curators on the purchase. Another important acquisition (bought for £47 10s.) is a Latin Commentary on the Pentateuch, written in the 8th century, and "of

great interest, not only palaeographically but for its corrupted Latinity." An epistle in verse (MS.) by Southey, describing his journey to and arrival in Oxford as a student (in 1732) was bought for the modest sum of £4, and is certainly in its right place in the Bodleian. A generous donation of £100 by a member of All Souls, and a balance of about £70 from another donation, seem to have been judiciously expended on the purchase of upwards of seventy incunabula and other interesting books. Among the acquisitions we may mention the *Liber de remediis utriusque fortunæ per quendam A [drianum Cartusiensem]*, printed at Strasburg about 1471, the first book with numbered leaves, the numeration being in the middle (not at the top) of the margin; also Doesborch's edition of the *Fifteen Tokens of Judgment* (Antwerp, c. 1508), and *Sundrie pleasaunt Flowers of Poesie*, a book purporting to be a reprint of one published in 1576, but really the work of the Rev. Peter Hall, who is said to have printed only two copies, one for Mr. Grenville (now in the British Museum), and the other for himself, which henceforth will rest in the Bodleian.

Good progress seems to have been made in cataloguing all the various collections, and also in binding. The only unsatisfactory paragraphs in the report are those which tell a mournful story of the iniquity of a boy. "On the morning of his entrance into the library," we are told, this boy "had signed the customary promise 'never to take away or destroy or damage any book or piece of paper, or anything else in the library,' and had been caused to copy this, and told to take the copy home to his father—nor was it disputed that he had done this." Nevertheless this boy had appropriated to his own use *imprimis* thirty-seven tracts of the Mather collection, 'beautifully bound,' which are certainly very moderately valued at £80; (2) Grenville Murray's *People I have met*; (3) a cloth case, containing Byron's works in twelve volumes; (4) ten penny stories. *Quid* his appropriation of the Mather tracts, it is satisfactory to learn that the youthful delinquent received, after trial by the city magistrates, a month's imprisonment; it is also pleasing to know the Librarian has drawn up "an enlarged code of printed rules relating to boys, which can be seen by any member of Convocation." But *quid* this boy's conveyance from the Bodleian of the work of Mr. Grenville Murray and the ten penny story books, we have strong sympathies with the conveyer, who no doubt felt that the Bodleian was no place for such trash, and we trust that the city magistrates gave due weight to these mitigatory circumstances in their sentence.

The Mitchell Library, Glasgow.

ON Friday last, the 20th May, the first five millions of volumes issued to readers was completed at 8.21 p.m. This stage in the history of the Library would have been reached many months earlier, but for the unfortunate suspension of issue, during the reconstruction of the present premises. Counting from the 5th November, 1877, when the first volume was issued in the rooms formerly occupied, at No. 60, Ingram Street, 3,992 working days have been spent in dealing with this large amount of reading, the average number of volumes consulted daily over the whole period being 1,253.

The following is a statement of the proportions of the issue in the several classes in which the books are arranged:—

	No. of Vols.	Per cent.
Theology and Philosophy ...	457,619	9.15
History, Biography, and Travels ...	984,115	19.69
Social Science, including Law, Commerce, Education, &c. ...	173,056	3.46
Arts and Sciences ...	1,010,742	20.22
Poetry and the Drama ...	319,893	6.39
Philology ...	124,420	2.49
Prose fiction ...	430,045	8.60
Miscellaneous literature ...	1,500,110	30.00
	<hr/> 5,000,000 <hr/>	<hr/> 100.00 <hr/>

These proportions are very similar to those of the first two millions, of which a statement was issued in September, 1883. The variations show that social science, miscellaneous literature, and prose fiction have gained slightly at the cost of history and poetry. The low percentage of prose fiction is largely due to the fact that the stock of this form of literature is very small, forming not much more than one per cent. of the whole Library, although contributing nearly nine per cent. to the issue.

It may be of interest to note the dates of the completion of each successive million of issue.

Millions of Volumes issued.	Date of Completion.	Number of Working Days.	Daily Average.
First	14 January, 1881	982	1,018
Second	1 Septem., 1883	808	1,238
Third	4 Decem., 1885	693	1,443
Fourth	8 March, 1888	693	1,443
Fifth	20 May, 1892	816	1,225

It will be observed that the Third and Fourth millions occupied precisely the same number of working days. During this period there was much overcrowding, with attending discomfort to readers.

The popular success of the Mitchell Library, in which the books are for consultation on the Library premises only, may be taken as a proof that a complete system of public libraries would have the same acceptance and approval here which they enjoy in all the other important cities of the kingdom. There is as yet no free circulating library in Glasgow; but it cannot be doubted that the singular success which has followed the one established in Edinburgh, by the adoption of the Public Libraries Act, consequent on Mr. Carnegie's munificent gift, will be repeated here whenever the ratepayers are induced to take advantage of this valuable statute, and so possess themselves of a regularly organised series of central and district libraries and news-rooms.

North Midland Library Association.

THE tenth meeting of this Association was held at the University College, on May 5th, 1892. Amongst those present were Mr. J. Potter Briscoe (president); Mr. J. T. Radford (hon. sec. Mechanics' Institution, Nottingham); Mr. F. S. Herne, vice president (Leicester); Mr. Z. Moon (Loughborough); Mr. J. W. H. Perkyns and Miss Flanders (Mechanics' Institution, Lincoln); Mr. Glover (Lenton); Miss Hill, Miss F. C. Hill, and Messrs Prichard, Carlin, Hammersley, Kirk, Herring (Free Public

Library, Nottingham); Mr. H. W. Cooke (Mechanics' Institution, Nottingham); Mr. Easom (People's Hall, Nottingham); &c.

A resolution proposed by Mr. Dent and seconded by Mr. Perkyns, "That the annual meeting be held in Nottingham on the first Thursday in October in each year," was adopted. Two papers were read on "Library Pests" and "The Literary Work of a Librarian," both of which created animated discussions. An adjournment was then made to the Morley House for tea, after which the members met at the Mechanics' Institution to finish the remaining business. Votes of thanks were passed to the writers of the papers. The annual report and balance sheet were read and adopted. The voting for officers for next year resulted in the election of J. Potter Briscoe, president; F. S. Herne, vice-president; Mr. J. Theodore Radford, hon. secretary and treasurer. It was resolved that if the date should prove suitable, the Association should visit Chatsworth on July 14th: the executive and Mr. Crowther to make the necessary arrangements. It was resolved that not less than six copies be made of the papers read at the meetings and circulated amongst the members.

A resolution was adopted that this Association join the L.A.U.K., and that the *Library* be circulated by the secretary amongst the members of this Association.

On the motion of Mr. Perkyns, "A vote of thanks was passed to the Committees of the University College and Mechanics' Institution for the loan of rooms, and to the local press for their co-operation."

JOHN T. RADFORD, *Hon. Sec.*

Library Catalogues.

Rules for a Dictionary Catalogue, by Charles A. Cutter, Librarian of the Boston Athenæum. 3rd edition, with corrections and additions, and an Alphabetical Index. Washington, 1891. pp. 40, 8vo.

We cordially welcome this long-promised edition of "Cutter" with an index—the only thing required to make it perfect. We gladly acknowledge the indebtedness of British librarians to the United States Bureau of Education for so freely distributing the work to libraries. The day seems as far off as ever when our Government can be induced to benefit libraries in this practical way.

St. Helens Free Public Library. Catalogue of the Sutton Branch Lending Library. 2nd edition. Compiled by Alfred Lancaster. 1891. 8vo, pp. 60. Long primer across page.

There are a few minor faults of compilation; Gilbert's *Foggerty's Fairy* is under Froggerty, and a more careful use of the dash under title-entries or its avoidance altogether is required. Under "Man" books on anthropology and fiction-titles do not mix well. To repeat the word reads better, as under "Iron." Withal this is a piece of careful work, and its merit is enhanced by good type and printing. The collection of books is an unimportant one, but no doubt adequate for the wants of the neighbourhood in which it is placed.

Birkenhead Free Public Library. Hand-List, No. 6, January. 1892. Royal 8vo, pp. 12. Brevier in double columns, Price one penny.

Contains the additions to the Lending Library during 1891. The arrangement is classified, as in the case of the previous lists, but the

usual section on a special subject or topic is omitted. The principal word in each title is well brought up by printing it in "clarendon," but the idea is not entirely carried out, the few cases we noticed evidently being overlooked in printing. There are a number of wrong founts. Mr. May has occasionally added a helpful explanatory note, and we hope he will extend this and make his future lists more of the nature of descriptive catalogues.

Salem Public Library, Salem, Mass. Third supplement to the Finding List, October, 1891. *Salem*, 1891. Royal 8vo. pp. viii. 116. Brevier in double columns.

Contains the additions for a year arranged on the same general plan as the previous lists, viz., a full subject-index, a classified catalogue—the classification being Dewey's—and an author-list. The compilation is perfect, and those who are wedded to the extravagant use of indent dashes ought to obtain this list if only to see how well the dash may be entirely dispensed with without any loss of clearness or appearance.

Catalogue of the Kimberley Public Library. Compiled by P. M. Laurence, LL.D., Judge-President of the High Court of Griqualand, Chairman of the Library Committee. 1891. 8vo. pp. xxxiii. 248.

This catalogue supersedes one which is characterized as "marked by every conceivable vice which such a production could possess," and "a farrago of blunders," some of the books being catalogued under such heads as "Works" and "Memoirs." The present catalogue consists of author-entry with subject and fiction-title indexes. That the compiler is thoroughly conversant with the theory as well as the practice of cataloguing is evidenced by his summary of the polemics of the subject. With some of his premises we cordially agree, but with many we do not; however, he gives good reasons for the faith that is in him as exemplified in this catalogue, and in spite of his claiming the "indulgence usually conceded to an amateur" his work is such as would put many (alas! too many) professed cataloguers to shame. If fault were to be found it would be rather in the direction of inquiring why such condensed titles are given when the form of printing would have admitted of fuller ones, instead of causing the printer to fill up the pages with "leaders." It is improbable that the Kimberley public are better informed than the average readers in public libraries. The collection of books appears both excellent and representative. That portion of Mr. Justice Laurence's introduction which relates to his library and to South African libraries generally is of so much interest that no excuse will be needed for printing it in an early number of *The Library*.

A new instalment of the British Museum Catalogue of Printed Books has just appeared, consisting of the parts containing "London," "M.—MacCorkle," "Marl—Martimprey," "Martin—Marxow," "Massimi—Mauriccio," and "Mb—Meinhold." The London portion includes official documents relating to the city and all institutions connected with it, reports and other publications of such societies in London as are not entered under *Academies*, and anonymous works relating in any manner to the City.

Bad Catalogues.

——— Public Library. Supplemental Catalogue. Sm. 8vo, pp. 24. Long primer across page. No title-page.

An attempt at a dictionary catalogue without the slightest knowledge of even the first principles, and with what result one example will suffice as a fair sample of the whole. Freeman's *Some Impressions of the United States* appears simply and solely under "Some"! Every page contains a blunder of one kind or another, and the authors' names, *when they are given*, are mangled nearly beyond recognition: Brown, D'Aubigue, Jeffries, John's, Macauley, Roberston of Brighton, T. Todhunter, Vamberay, are a few of the better known, taken at random. No attempt has been made to place the entries in alphabetical order, other than to bring the first letters together. Beyond giving the knowing readers something to laugh at, this "catalogue" can serve no satisfactory purpose. One or two entries will amuse:

Adventures of Philip Thackeray.
 Æschylus (complete entry).
 Baron Trenck (complete entry).
 Carlyle. Startor Resartus.
 Foundling Hospital (complete entry).
 History of Civilization, by Gutzot.
 Mountain, Jules Michelet.
 Ravenstein's Russia on the Amoor.
 Russians on the Amoor, by Ravenstein.
 Stoughton's William Penn, Life of.
 Wallace, Lew.—Ben Hor.
 Wright, Thomas—Caricature History of the Georges.
 „ Practical Poultry Keeper.

Settings.

In an article which appeared lately in *The Scotsman*, the recent establishment of so large a number of Public Libraries is credited with having acted prejudicially on the annual output of books. The writer observes: "Curiously enough this shrinkage of book production has been accompanied by quite a phenomenal expansion of periodical literature."

———
 The ingenuity of librarians is sometimes severely exercised to find reasons for a diminished circulation or a falling off in the number of visitors to the Reading Room. Committees seem to expect that if an annual report records a lessened use of the library, it is incumbent on the librarian to find an excuse.

———
 Anything serves. If there has been a long spell of bad weather, readers have not ventured out; if the weather has been fine, readers have naturally preferred a country stroll to sitting in a stuffy reading room. If trade is brisk, it is obvious that people have little time for reading, and if there has been a prolonged strike or lock-out, it is equally clear that the members of the trades-unions are too busy agitating and negotiating to find leisure for reading. And so on.

But the most curious reason ever suggested for a falling off in the number of visits made to a reading room, was recently given in a report that came under our notice. A considerable decrease was ascribed to the fact that early in the year reported upon the committee had begun to charge 1d. for the use of the *lavatory*!

Should we "enquire too curiously" if we were to ask how many visits to reading room recorded in previous reports should, in strict truth, have been recorded as "visits to *lavatory*"?

The Bookman for this month tells us that of the 1,277,436 volumes lent by the Paris Municipal Libraries in one year, fifty per cent. were fiction. Zola and Jules Verne head the list of favourite writers, and Dumas père and Eugène Sue continue to be very popular. Balzac and George Sand seem to have fallen out of favour. After fiction comes poetry. There Victor Hugo is far ahead of any other in popularity. *Les symboliques* had eleven readers!

We lately saw a notice in a Reference Library penned in all seriousness by an assistant. The legend ran:—

"TALKING ALOUD NOT ALLOWED."

The library assistant, with a sense of humour, finds the service of the public by no means dreary or wanting in occasion for many a quiet chuckle. On a dull day the following applications would be welcomed behind the counter. They are all genuine.

Swainson.—*Animanils in Manergeries.*

Washington Irving.—*Tail of a Traveller.*

Fulton.—*National History Of Pijons.*

Ballantyne.—*The Can Nibble Islands.*

Marryat.—*Mr. Gentleman Easy.*

Miner Sports.

Starter re startus.

Library Association of the United Kingdom.

THE last monthly meeting was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, May the 9th, at 8 p.m. Mr. TEDDER in the chair.

The Size Notation Committee presented the following report:—

SIZE NOTATION.

The Size Notation Committee have the honour to report that they have duly considered the question referred to them. They are unable at this stage to recommend the general adoption of any particular scheme, but they strongly urge that all cataloguers should be requested to mention at the commencement of their printed catalogues what scheme of notation (if any) is adopted by them, or failing this, that they would be careful to indicate precisely what is intended by the terms used by them to describe the sizes of the books in the catalogue.

The Size Notation Committee further recommend that the original Report of the Sub-Committee be reprinted for the information of members.

Mr. HEW MORRISON (Librarian of The Edinburgh Public Library) read a paper on THE EDINBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ITS FIRST YEAR'S WORK.

The CHAIRMAN said that before they had the pleasure of according a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Morrison for his valuable and interesting

communication, he had an important announcement to make. This was to state that the members were honoured with the presence among them that evening of Mr. ANDREW CARNEGIE, who, as they well-knew, besides his many other gifts to libraries on both sides of the Atlantic, has generously endowed the Free Public Library at Edinburgh. The Chairman having briefly introduced the visitor to the meeting,

Mr. CARNEGIE said: He did not care much what a young person read, always, of course, excluding what was really obnoxious. He had not forgotten what it was to be the son of a poor weaver in Scotland, and he had not forgotten what it was to be in America when he could not get books, and when Colonel Anderson threw open his four hundred to the public. He wanted the taste for reading developed, so that those who had within them the soul of improvement might get on all right in the future. The longer he lived the less importance he attached to the rotten apples in the social barrel. He would remove those rotten apples, not primarily for their own sake, but for the sake of the sound fruit, which he was afraid they would contaminate. Therefore it was that while he believed that of every thousand dollars spent in so-called charity to-day, nine hundred and fifty of it, had better be thrown into the sea, he had chosen, and his conscience and his judgment had held him in the conviction, not to establish institutions for those who would not help themselves, but to the establishment of free libraries that would not pauperise. He would let the rotten apples go, but would give to men and women who had within them the germs of development and elevation the means by which they could ascend. Mr. Carnegie attributed a great deal of the success of the Edinburgh Public Library to Mr. Morrison.

Mr. THOMAS MASON, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Morrison, said that they were glad to see Mr. Morrison among them, and to hear that the great library under his charge was succeeding so well. It was not often that they had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Carnegie, and he thought that the opportunity ought to be embraced of bringing to Mr. Carnegie's notice a point in regard to the founding of Libraries, which had evidently wholly escaped him and his advisers. They all admired the splendid generosity, and the large-heartedness which had prompted Mr. Carnegie to give so munificently to the cause of Free Libraries; but with all his liberality he had forgotten to see that the Librarian was adequately endowed. Mr. Carnegie had enlarged most eloquently on the inestimable value of a good Librarian, but how could they expect to keep up the supply of good Librarians when they were only offered the wages of a labourer. He believed that he was correct when he said, that in only one (Edinburgh) of the Libraries, founded or aided by Mr. Carnegie, in Scotland, was the salary of the Librarian over a hundred pounds, and in most cases they were fifteen or twenty pounds under even that modest remuneration. He did not for one moment wish to mar Mr. Carnegie's pleasant impressions of the meeting, and he had ventured thus much out of the beaten track of complimentary expression, in the hope that he would enlist Mr. Carnegie's support in raising the salary and the status of the Librarian, and he had very great pleasure indeed in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Morrison.

The vote of thanks was seconded by Mr. COTGREAVE.

Mr. WILLIAM E. A. AXON, whilst disclaiming any right to the eulogistic terms which Mr. Tedder had used, expressed his increasing interest in the library movement. His own experiences had been varied. He had been first a reader, and then for many years an official in a

provincial library, and since he had quitted the profession he had given a number of years' service as a member of the governing body of a large library. In this way he had seen the library question both from the outside and from the inside, and whilst listening to Mr. Morrison's paper he had been mentally comparing many of the facts with his own experiences. But apart from the interest of the Edinburgh details there was the living principle underlying the whole of the movement for popular libraries. They had listened with great pleasure that evening to Mr. Andrew Carnegie. Free libraries were a beneficent example of "Triumphant Democracy." Knowledge, which in the past had been the exclusive possession of the wealthy and the great, was now being made accessible to the mass of the people. This was a matter for hearty rejoicing, for science and literature in the hands and homes of the people meant an immense increase, not only in the material prosperity, but also in the enjoyment and happiness of the whole community.

The Chairman then put the vote of thanks to the meeting and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. MORRISON briefly responded, and the meeting adjourned.

Letters to Editor.

WHAT ARE REFERENCE BOOKS?

SIR,—There is a point connected with the management of public libraries, on which I should be glad if you would permit me to ask a question. The contents of such libraries are usually divided into two classes, *i.e.* (A) books intended for circulation; and (B) books which may not be taken out by readers, or which may be taken out only under special conditions, class B being commonly described as the "Reference Library." Has there been any discussion, either at any meeting of the Library Association or in such publications as the *Library*, the *Library Chronicle*, or the *Library Journal*, as to the principles determining whether a book should belong to A or B? If so, will you or any of your readers oblige me with the reference; if not, would you allow the *Library* to be the medium for any librarian, or other competent authority, who is willing to do so, to contribute any information on the subject likely to be of assistance to those engaged in library work? Of course, there is no difficulty as to works of reference in the stricter sense, such as dictionaries, &c., and there are other works which, owing either to their rarity or their costliness, would be difficult to replace, and which, therefore, should clearly belong to the B class; but there are many works as to which it is difficult to draw the line, and I fancy this is a difficulty which librarians must often experience, and on which they would be glad if any principles could be laid down for their guidance. We have here a small library of about 15,000 volumes, of which about 12,000, or four-fifths, are in general circulation, while the remainder cannot be taken out except under a special permit, signed by three members of the committee. The proportion of works of reference to works in circulation appears to be smaller than that which usually obtains in English libraries on a more or less similar scale. In the new catalogue of our library, a copy of which has, I believe, been sent to you, the works in the reference class are distinguished by a star prefixed to the title. I should be very glad of any hints as to (1) the principles which should regulate the formation of this class; (2) the question as to whether all or any portion of it should be strictly confined to use in the Library itself, and, if not, in what circumstances and under what conditions it should be permissible for such works to be taken out?—I am, Sir, &c.,

Kimberley.

P. M. LAURENCE.

Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor. Advertisements and letters on Business to the Publisher, 20, Hanover Square, W.

The True Catherine of Aragon.

(According to Italian Archives.)

IN view of the interest aroused by Mr. Froude's version of "The Divorce of Catherine of Aragon as told by the Imperial Ambassadors at the Court of Henry VIII.," the contents of the Italian archives may perhaps be laid bare with advantage. It is true that Mr. Froude has consulted the Venetian Calendar of state papers; but he does not profess to have examined it minutely, and the passages he quotes are far from representative. For instance he gives us, from Falieri's description of the King, a number of complimentary references to "such beauty of mind and body as surprise and astonish," "a face like an angel's," "a head bald¹ like Cæsar's," and many accomplishments as a scholar and a sportsman; but he entirely omits the following passage in the same despatch, which reflects far more correctly the real sentiments of the writer. "Although always intelligent and judicious," writes Falieri, "Henry has nevertheless allowed himself to be so allured by his pleasures that, accustomed to ease, he for many years left the administration of government to his ministers, well nigh up to the time of Cardinal Wolsey's persecution; but, ever since, he has taken such delight in his own rule that from liberal he has become avaricious, and, whereas no one heretofore departed from his Majesty without being well rewarded, so now all quit his presence dissatisfied." Moreover the religious observances quoted by Mr. Froude are in the original sneeringly suggested to be a semblance and a sham.

Mr. Froude has doubtless exercised a similar discretion in selecting descriptions of the other chief actors in this great drama, for the general consensus of the documents in Italy is far from bearing out the impressions he seeks to convey. Especially is this so in the case of Queen Catherine, whom he depicts as ugly, proud and intractable. Had he been specially

¹ Mr. Rawdon Brown, in his preface to the Venetian Calendar, gives this baldness as the reason why no painter ever dared represent the King without a bonnet.

concerned with the Venetian despatches, he would doubtless have given emphatic prominence to the reported assertion of the French King,¹ that Catherine was "old² and deformed," a view which was not shared by less partial observers. For instance, the Venetian Ambassador in England described her some months later as "possessed of a very beautiful complexion, and as religious and virtuous as words could express."³ A dozen years later Mario Savorgnano gives a graphic account of a visit to the Queen, which is to be found in the Sanuto diaries.⁴ "Her Majesty," he says, "is prudent and good, and during these differences with the King she has evinced constancy and resolution, never being disheartened or depressed. I returned to Windsor Castle, and from thence, on the fourth day of my departure from London, arrived at a place called The More, where the Queen resides. In the morning we saw her Majesty dine. She had some thirty maids of honour standing round the table and about fifty who performed its service. Her Court consists of about two hundred persons, but she is not so much visited as heretofore, on account of the King. Her Majesty is not of tall stature, but rather small. If not handsome, she is certainly not ugly; she is inclined to be stout; generally has a smile on her countenance."

Neither do the Italian despatches bear out the charges of "pride and intractability" so airily made against the Queen. When Henry was living in open adultery with Sir Thomas Boleyn's daughter, the Milanese agent reported that "this saintly Queen maintains strenuously (*contende summâ contentione*) that all her King and lord does is done by him for true and pure conscience's sake, and not from any wanton appetite;"⁵ when she had been driven away from Court to make room for her rival, we find her "maintaining a cheerful demeanour and arraying her retinue in entirely new apparel, with a monogram signifying 'Henry and Catherine'" ;⁶ and when Henry issued a proclamation threatening the penalties of *præmunire* against any who should in future style or address Catherine as Queen, she only

¹ Antonio Giustinian and Antonio Surian, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the Signory, 4 June, 1519.

² She was then barely thirty-five.

³ Report of England by Sebastian Giustinian, 10 September, 1519. (S. Mark's Library.)

⁴ 25 August, 1531.

⁵ Scarpinello to the Duke of Milan, 28 June, 1530.

⁶ Carlo Capello to the Signory of Venice, 21 June, 1533.

remarked "that everything belonged to his Majesty, including her own person, of which he might dispose at his pleasure, but she neither could nor would cede her rights."¹ Indeed all accounts agree in extolling her gentle dignity throughout her troubles, and even "bluff King Hal" was constrained to a show of courtesy in her presence. As late as 1530, Scarpinello writes to the Duke of Milan, "the Queen is with his Majesty at Hampton Court, and they pay each other, reciprocally, the greatest possible attention and compliments in the Spanish fashion, with the utmost *sangfroid*, as if there had never been any dispute whatever between them, so much reciprocal courtesy being displayed in public that anyone acquainted with the controversy cannot but consider their conduct more than human."²

Meanwhile it was not unnatural that this noble and unfortunate lady should arouse widespread sympathy among the people of England. Mr. Froude seeks to make light of this, but the fact remains that the Archives contain no single mention of any demonstration in favour of the King. Sir John Wallop, English Ambassador to the French Court, expressed much indignation at her treatment, "praising the wisdom, innocence and patience of Queen Catherine, and saying that her Majesty was beloved as if she had been of the blood royal of England."³ Many recalled instances of the Queen's tenderness of heart and love for the people. They told how the King had destined four hundred rioters for the gallows, "but our most serene and most compassionate Queen, on her bended knees and with tears in her eyes, obtained their pardon from his Majesty, the act of grace being performed with great ceremony;"⁴ and it is characteristic that the last letter which she wrote from Windsor Castle was one of kindness, soliciting the Duke of Milan's good offices for a favourite servant.⁵ On the other hand, Marin Giustinian writes to the Signory of Venice, "the English King is not popular with his subjects, chiefly on account of his intention to divorce his wife, who is much loved,"⁶ and, according to a later ambassador, "a rebellion might easily break out some day and cause great confusion."⁷

¹ *Ibid.*, 12 July, 1533.

² Sforza Archives, 16 December, 1530.

³ Marin Giustinian to the Signory of Venice, 15 April, 1533.

⁴ Mantuan Archives, 19 May, 1517.

⁵ Preface to Venetian Calendar, vol. iv.

⁶ 13 March, 1533.

⁷ Carlo Capello to the Signory of Venice, 3 June, 1535.

Anne Boleyn, as the fount and origin of all the evil, was especially execrated by the people. In advices from home, received by the French Ambassador in Venice, it is said that "more than seven weeks ago, a mob of from seven to eight thousand women of London went out of the town to seize Boleyn's daughter, who was supping at a pleasure-house on the river, the King not being with her; and having received notice of this, she escaped by crossing the river in a boat. The women had intended to kill her; and amongst the mob were many men disguised as women; nor has any great stir been made about this affair, because it was a thing done by women."¹ As to the character and appearance of Anne, accounts vary. Coresara² described her, in 1528, as of surpassing beauty, but an anonymous writer, who saw her on the occasion of her visit with Henry to the French Court as bride-elect, reports that "Madam Anne is not one of the handsomest women in the world; she is of middling stature, and has a swarthy complexion, long neck, wide mouth, and undeveloped bosom. In fact, she has nothing to boast of except the King's infatuation and her eyes, which are black and beautiful, and have done some execution among certain of the late Queen's attendants."³ The last sentence is thought by Mr. Rawdon Brown to refer to Brereton, Norris, and Weston, afterwards accused of being her paramours. A certain diplomatic aptitude on Anne's part is revealed in an account of an audience with the Venetian Ambassador, during which she informed him that "she knew that God had inspired his Majesty to marry her, and that he could have found a greater personage than herself, but not one more anxious and ready to demonstrate her love towards the Signory."⁴ This may or may not have been so; but in another despatch we find Falieri describing her uncle, the Duke of Norfolk, as "a small man with black hair, who bore special illwill to our Venetian nation."

The resultant of Mr. Froude's ingenuity—the real thesis of his book—is an attempt to prove that the divorce was a mere matter of public policy, and that Henry did not fall in

¹ Sanuto Diaries, 24 November, 1531.

² Coresara to the Signory of Venice, 10 February, 1528.

³ Sanuto Diaries, 31 October, 1532.

⁴ Capello to the Signory of Venice, 24 June, 1533.

love with Anne Boleyn until long after it had been projected. "There was no trace at the outset," he says deliberately, "of an attachment to another woman;" he states that in 1526 Henry had for two years ceased to cohabit with his wife as she had "certain diseases which made it impossible that she could be again pregnant," and that, as no woman can sit upon the throne of England, his death without a male heir would plunge the country into civil war. In the matter of dates, Mr. Froude is not corroborated by the Italian archives. It is true that from an early day, Henry had been systematically unfaithful to the Queen, and that the idea of a divorce had presented itself to his mind whenever he was under the thrall of a new favourite. In 1513, after only four years of marriage, he had put the Court into mourning for the death of one of his mistresses;¹ and in 1520 he had again affronted his wife by conferring an earldom upon his natural son, and threatening to make him heir to the crown. As early as 1514, rumours were afloat that he intended to repudiate Catherine, "because he was unable to have children by her."² But the project did not take definite shape until his intrigues with Anne were well advanced; and it is only in October, 1529, that the Venetian Ambassador reports the Queen to have been "divorced from the King's bed,"³ that is to say, fully three years after Henry had, by Mr. Froude's own admission, "fallen under the fascination of the impatient Anne."⁴ In fact, the allegations of conscience and high policy appear all through to have been merely cloaks to conceal the King's weakness in the hands of his courtesans. Subsequent history has shown that the nation will "submit to a female sovereign;"⁵ and Henry's conscience, which could not brook the "mortal sin" of cleaving to his good and faithful Queen, afterwards proved sufficiently elastic to enable him to advocate an incestuous marriage between his daughter and his illegitimate son.

Mr. Froude is very impatient with Queen Catherine for not giving way in this great contest, and, by the sacrifice

¹ Sanuto Diaries, v., xvii., p. 287.

² Letter of Vettor Lippomano, 28 August, 1514.

³ Sebastian Giustinian to the Signory of Venice.

⁴ See Froude, p. 182.

⁵ See Froude, p. 22.

of herself, allaying the turmoil of Europe; and she was of so long-suffering and unselfish a character that she would doubtless have done so if her own rights alone had been concerned. But he seems to forget that to acquiesce in the invalidity of her marriage would have been to bastardize her beloved daughter, and destroy her claims to the succession. Henry had at first made much of the Princess. When the Venetian Ambassador congratulated him on her birth, he exclaimed, "My wife and I are both young, and, if it has been a daughter this time, by the grace of God, sons will follow."¹ The attention and indulgence which Mary received at the age of two aroused general astonishment. Giustinian thus describes her appearance on a state occasion: "The Cardinal, the Lords and I kissed her hand, for that alone is kissed by any duke or noble of the land, let his degree be what it may, nor does any one see her without doffing his bonnet, and making obeisance to her. The King said to me, '*Domine Orator, per Deum immortalem, ista puella nunquam plorat*'; and I replied, 'Sacred Majesty, the reason is that her destiny does not move her to tears; she will even become Queen of France.' These words pleased the king vastly. On seeing the Reverend Dionysius Memo, the King's organist, the Princess commenced calling out in English: 'Priest!' and he was obliged to go and play with her."² When the divorce was in progress, she was treated with neglect and harshness by her father. Capello mentions in 1532 that the King had not seen her for more than a year,³ and for a long time she was virtually a prisoner. In fact her cause was bound up with that of her mother, as were those of the Roman Catholic Church, ecclesiastical endowments, and the sanctity of the marriage tie. It was for her, and for them, that Catherine of Aragon remained steadfast and undaunted in the hour of persecution.

HERBERT VIVIAN.

¹ Sebastian Giustinian to the Signory of Venice, 24 February, 1516.

² *Ibid.*, 28 February, 1518, and 10 September, 1519.

³ Carlo Capello to the Signory of Venice, 18 September, 1532.

A Plea for Annual Lists of State-Papers and Annual Reviews of State-Papers, as being essential preliminaries to State-Paper Catalogues.*

PREFATORY NOTES. (i.) *As read, this paper originally included a general preface written with the view of emphasising the importance of making State-Papers more available for public use, and showing in a general manner that in no country had the treatment of State-Papers been anything but disappointing, if we compared the actual results with the standard of success which it is quite possible to attain to. I have decided, however, to omit this preface as being a branch of the subject which might more profitably form the subject matter of a separate paper.*

(ii.) *I find, after further experience and investigations, that the whole subject of State-Paper Lists, Reviews, and Catalogues is even more dependent for success on attention to prior steps of work than I had originally realised. For this reason, the matter cannot be comprehensively or satisfactorily dealt with, without first enunciating more fully than I have already done (in my previous paper) the Theories appertaining to those earlier stages, viz., the Theory of Compilation, and the Theory of Publication. It will be seen, therefore, that I have commenced the whole subject backwards, beginning with the last stage instead of with the first. I do not regret this, however, as I believe that the subject may perhaps be made more readily intelligible in this manner than by the alternative method. Having then already dealt with the final stage (A State-Paper Catalogue), I shall now try and show cause for my advocacy of Annual Lists and Annual Reviews of State-Papers.*

IN the summer of 1890, in a paper introductory to the Theory of a State-Paper Catalogue, I expressed my belief that in order to render the State-Papers of any nation properly accessible to the public there were two essential preliminaries:

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(i.) An *Annual List of State-Papers*; (ii.) An *Annual Review* of the publications appearing in that List, and I inferred that both publications were necessary, even if a Catalogue of the State-Papers of the same country were contemplated or were already in existence; and I further implied that none of the three publications necessarily encroached on one another's province, but that the List was a necessary preliminary to the Review, and both List and Review necessary to the proper compilation, continuance, and full use of the Catalogue.

I start first with the assumption already greatly recognized in this country, that every man has a right to know of the existence of every single State-Paper published in the country of which he is a citizen, except there be some very special reason on grounds of political expediency for withholding that information. Furthermore, it will not be disputed that he has a right to know where any given State-Paper was published, by what Department or person, at what date, what it relates to, how it can be procured, and, in fact everything about it.

But how is he to secure this information? "By a List," is the answer. "And what kind of List?" "A full and comprehensive one," is the reply. "Exactly so! But where is the country where a List is published according to your definition?" And this is where the fault lies. There are many countries in which Lists of one sort and another are issued. But there is no country which publishes *one comprehensive* List which you could consult with the certainty of finding a notice of every *bona fide* State-Report for the year, together with the series of statements necessary to the proper description of such Reports.

In some countries, the purely *Departmental* Reports are jumbled up together with the purely *Parliamentary* Papers, under the head of "Sessional Papers." Being thus associated together with Parliamentary Papers for the use of Houses of Parliament they are printed, arranged, and bound on principles solely adapted to that purpose. Thus, instead of being arranged and bound up according to clearly defined natural subject-groups, with well-chosen titles for the important reports, the minor reports being collected together under general titles, they are entered in the Lists (if at all), and bound up, according to dates of printing or "Command." So long

as they have reference numbers and dates, it matters not that reports which are long and important should be placed on a level with those which are trifling in nature (such as short tabulated returns) because an Alphabetical Index repairs the evil! But even then an Alphabetical Index is only a partial remedy, if the Lists are compiled upon false principles, and it would not be required at all for a List of *Departmental* Reports, provided these reports were kept separate from the ordinary *Parliamentary* Papers, and thus allowed to be entered in a List according to their own special requirements.

In other countries the Sessional Lists and Indexes are so meagre as almost to be worthless, and (worst of all crimes) are almost invariably bound up with the huge Sessional volumes, so as never to be obtainable separate at any price.

In some instances the deficiency is supposed to be remedied by the existence of Departmental Lists. But the majority of men never hear or know of their existence, and even then they are often very difficult to be obtained. Furthermore, if they are fortunate enough to procure them they will probably find that they only contain a limited number of the reports of the Department which happen to be in print, or a selection of undated reports, the titles of which are clumsily abbreviated and which, for any evidence to the contrary, may be one or ten years old.

Departmental Lists have their appointed ends, and are indeed necessary to the compilation of the one National List I advocate, but they must not be allowed to supplant it.

On other occasions the publications of a department are noted in the pages of the ordinary annual report, but in such cases they would not readily be looked for and easily escape the eye.

In other instances, and in some countries, I fear these swell the majority, the publications of the National Departments are noted *nowhere* at all.

It will readily be imagined from the foregoing that it is no easy matter for our simple citizen to secure the information he wants. "Well, but your 'simple' citizen can go to the Library, where he will get what he asks for," is the retort, "and besides, what does he want with all this information? If he were a learned student in quest of deep knowledge by which to benefit his country there might be some reason for all this to-do." "Very well," we reply, "while we could easily quote numerous

instances where the simple citizen whom you disdain and whose claims you would ignore has become the expert and master-statesman, we will ignore his claims on this occasion, because it is just as easy to show that the experienced librarian and the learned student are each equally in need of this same information as the 'poor citizen.' And if it were not obvious we could show that the same difficulties which harass the librarian and the student trouble the civil servant also throughout his whole career."

A librarian who is cataloguing State Papers is bound to assure himself of numberless little and apparently insignificant points which to the ordinary eye might seem altogether trifling, but which, taken together, are in reality of the highest importance, and the elucidation of which is an absolute necessity if the librarian is to make a correct, explicit, consistent and useful catalogue.

For instance, in regard to reports which relate to such a country as India, it is an additional clue to the rank and merits of a report to know whether it was published on behalf of the Imperial "Government of India," or was the work of a Provincial Government. And, apart from differences of Imperialism and Provincialism, since Indian State Papers have been published by many different Governing Bodies, it is not possible to catalogue them with absolute correctness so as to be easily found, unless we know which of the said bodies published each individual report. The full importance of this point will be realised when we consider that reports relating to the administration of India may have been published by at least six different governing bodies, *i.e.* :

1. *By the E. I. Company's Servants in India.*
2. *By the E. I. Company's Court of Directors in London (and even perhaps by the Board of Control).*
3. *As E. I. Company's Reports published as Parliamentary Papers.*
4. *By the British Government's Servants in India (i. The Imperial Government. ii. The Local Government).*
5. *By the India Office in London.*
6. *As India Office Reports published as English Parliamentary Papers.*

Again ; it is necessary for the cataloguer to know by what Department a report was issued, and also the official title of the chief of the Department, for this also affects correct catalogu-

ing. And this knowledge is just as necessary to the student also, for a report is sometimes valuable or valueless, according as it is published by one Department or another. For, although written on the same subject and with similar title, it may be written from quite a different point of view, with quite a different object, and arranged on quite a different system.

Again; it is of no small value to know the name of the immediate compiler of a given report, since in many instances it makes all the difference, for the official and historian alike, to know that the opinions expressed in a certain report or series of reports were those of a man of eminence and reliability or the contrary, thus enabling them to trace back the reports of the one and avoid those of the other.

Furthermore, inasmuch as the names of Departments are often so general as to afford little or no help to the cataloguer, and since Departments are so liable to constant reorganisation with consequent changes in the reports, it is often necessary for the cataloguer to know the official description both of the officer who has compiled the report, as also of him to whom it is transmitted, as indicating what Branch of a Department it belongs to.

Next, since Departments and Subjects are not necessarily consistent or reciprocal, we wish to know something definite concerning the *matter* of the report. To what general subject does it relate? To what division of that subject? Next we shall wish to know to what territory the report relates—whether to a whole territory, or to certain parts of it, and if so, to which parts.

We shall then ask what period of *Time* the report covers. A year or a century?—and if it be an annual report, it is necessary to know whether it relates to a calendar, financial or agricultural year, and when those years begin and end, since the two latter ones are always liable to change. Want of attention to such points may easily affect the accuracy of statistics which are based upon periods of time. And if a report be *Biennial* or *Triennial*, this also should be clearly stated in order to save fruitless labour in searching for annual reports which do not exist.

Next—the *Edition* and *Date*. Does the report supersede all previous ones? Is it the first of a series of “Occasional” reports, or the first of a series of “Annual” reports; or, is it only an experimental report which happens to relate to a whole year, but will not be repeated again?

And then, of course, the number of pages, the place where published, the date of issue and price.

Finally (and it is here alone that the List and the Review meet in danger of trespassing on one another's grounds) it might be advisable to append to the List a column to include any "*Remarks*" calculated to supply useful information which could not very well be inserted in the existing columns.

Under "*Remarks*" it might often be stated with advantage what was the immediate object for which a report was compiled. This information is often necessary to the cataloguer before he can assign a report its proper place in a catalogue, while in showing the general lines of the report it would enable the student to judge at once whether he would find in it the information he desired.

Often we ask ourselves: Is this the only report on the subject, or is it published in conjunction with others? This question would be answered. At other times, we ask: Is the subject reported upon for the very first time, or, is it reported upon for the first time separately? If the latter, in what report was it originally included, and in what section of that report?

The "*Remarks*" column would also serve the purpose of drawing attention to neglect of necessary details of publication, thus enabling them to be rectified in the future (*e.g.*, "No title page." "Table of Contents wanted." "No Index," &c. &c. &c.).

The above is a general sketch of the many uses which an Annual List might serve, and the case is in no way overstated nor the value of such a list exaggerated. But the list refers mainly to the *exterior* of the reports. It remains now therefore to deal with their *interior* matter, and this brings me to my consideration of the second preliminary, an *Annual Review of State Papers*.

It is not necessary or indeed possible to sketch the shape of such an Annual Review in minute detail, inasmuch as this depends mainly upon the actual matter of the reports to hand. It is sufficient to state that it will draw attention to all that is most remarkable in the reports of the year, both as to matter included or omitted.

It has slowly dawned on mankind during the last ten years that men like to be informed *what* to read, and *where* to find it. At first this might appear to result from a spirit of indolence in an age in which men prefer to be done for rather than to do.

But second thoughts will convince us rather that the tendency is due to a genuine difficulty amounting to an impossibility for the generality of men to keep pace with the rush of life, and thus, in the matter of reading, to read what ought to be read. Consequently each year sees us more and more dependent on indexes and selected lists and other aids. As in the world of general literature, so in each particular section of it. And thus in the section of State-Papers. It becomes, therefore, more incumbent on us to do all that is possible to simplify research and to facilitate the final possession of knowledge. And in no section of literature is this simplification more needed than with State-Papers which so greatly affect the weal or woe of a country. And in no section is failure to do so to be more deplored, since in no other direction can such satisfactory results be obtained at so little cost of labour.

The need of a Review of State-Reports is thus primarily due to the enormous number of reports published in the course of each year in contrast with the small amount of time which can be bestowed upon them. But there is another cause which increases the necessity of such a remedy, viz., the impossibility of accurately gauging what we may term the *accidental* contents of the average report. Students of State-Papers will have found that in their researches they may wade through years of annual reports, and find mere ordinary routine news, when, just as they are about to give up in despair, they may suddenly stumble across a nugget of gold. And so great is this uncertainty concerning the insertion or omission of extra-ordinary information, that even those most experienced in the search for it can never be sure of knowing where and when to look. Moreover, as we have pointed out before, it is impossible for cataloguers or catalogues to supply all the information necessary. Hence the need of a Review which shall note the occurrence in the pages of the yearly reports of matter of special importance, which might otherwise be forgotten and lie concealed for ages.

The special information to which we allude as so irregular in its occurrence may be generally expected to appear under the following circumstances :

It may be entered in the first report issued by a department, or it may be given in any report which relates to a year in which any great change of departmental organisation (amalgamation, &c.) has taken place. Individual appointments in a depart-

ment may produce the same effect. The changing of supreme officers or the appointing of a new compiler of an annual report will often be an occasion for introducing a special chapter or appendix on the work and history of the department. And again, if a department be abolished, a history of its work would naturally appear in the last report. Special matter may be expected in a report relating to a year in which some *external* fact has vitally affected a department, either temporarily or permanently. (*e.g. In connection with the Famine (Cyclone), the report on ——— contains an able memorandum on the history of past scourges (Cyclone-Storms), with a code of regulations to assist in forestalling and counteracting the evil in the future.*)

Special attention would be drawn to the commencement of new investigations and reports of Governments on such subjects as Agriculture, Archæology, Natural Products, and Industries. Special publicity would also be given to systems of official publication. Thus it is not every one who knows that the Annual General Administration reports of the several provinces of India (as also the Moral and Material Progress reports), contain special reports every tenth year, when not only the events of the last decade are summarised but the whole past history of each subject is re-written up to date, so as to form a handy reference-volume for the next ten years.

Defects of compilation and publication (faulty titles, &c.), might also often be remedied in the proposed Review (*e.g. In the Report on the Revenue Administration of Bengal, the compiler practically narrates the history of the different Revenue systems throughout India. The work might, therefore, have well been entitled: "Review of the various Revenue systems throughout India, with special reference to the Province of Bengal."*)

And, finally, a great deal of general information could be given, which would be invaluable to the student. Thus, studying the history of any given subject, as for instance that of Education, we would naturally wish to know at what period did the subject of Education first occupy the attention of the Government of ——. What officials have played a prominent part in the advocacy of its progress? Were they all of the same school of thought? If not, what were their respective views, and where shall we find them contrasted? Where can we find an epitome of the progress of Education in —, with an account of the causes of failure or success?

The above notes are but the barest hints as to the nature of the information which might be sought for, but I hope they are sufficient to show the form which the Review might take, and the uses which it might fulfil.

The writer has merely to add that the Annual List and Review must not be regarded as original suggestions on his part, inasmuch as the idea is already carried out by the Indian Government in reference to the publications of the *Public Press* throughout India. He merely seeks, in dealing with State-Papers, to apply those principles (with necessary modification or expansion) which have already been considered necessary and found successful in the case of the non-official works of a whole Empire. And here, in regard both to List and Review, the question may aptly be asked: Realising the existence of countless questions which are ever arising in connection with the State-Papers of the different Governments of the world, whose duty is it to answer them in order to save the waste of endless and often fruitless labour which must ensue, and in order to facilitate the proper cataloguing and use of the same? Is it the duty of the Government which issues those reports; which controls the compilation and publishing of them; which is on the spot, and which alone has the knowledge and power necessary to answer the questions satisfactorily? Or is it the duty of the struggling librarian, who has no necessary connection with the Government concerned, who is perhaps thousands of miles away, and who has neither the information, nor the power to obtain the information, which is so necessary to the interests of his work and his country?

There can surely be but *one* answer.

F. B. F. CAMPBELL.



Books in Chains: a Note.

IN Mr. W. Salt Brassington's "Additional Notes to Blades' 'Bibliographical Miscellanies'" (*see* LIBRARY, iii., 442, December, 1891) there is a reference to chained books at "Whitchurch, Little Stanmore, Middlesex." Whitchurch, or Little Stanmore, is close to Edgware, a village or small town on the road to St. Albans, about eight miles from London. The church was rebuilt by the great Duke of Chandos, whose mansion, Canons, was in the parish. In an *Account of the Parish of Little Stanmore*, published by the Rector, the Rev. B. J. Armstrong, in 1849, it is stated "that many of the prayer books given by the great Duke still remain chained to the pews for the use of the poorer parishioners" (p. 12).

Although the books have disappeared long ago I am informed by the present Rector, the Rev. J. B. Norman, that there are still some traces of the old state of things, the staples remaining in many of the pews, and in one or two cases a portion of the chain is attached. This is the only instance I know in which books for the use of the congregation in church have been secured by chains. What a clatter must have been made as the books were taken up and put down by "our poorer brethren" in the free seats!

R. B. P.



The Carlisle Free Public Library.

THE "Public Libraries Acts" were adopted here at a public meeting, held in the Town Hall, on 9th June, 1890, under the chairmanship of the Chancellor of the diocese, Alderman R. Ferguson, F.S.A.; and the committee who were appointed have since then been taking steps to secure for Carlisle a Free Library and kindred institutions worthy the "Border City."

A sum of £4,700 was privately subscribed, and in August of the above year the committee were able to offer to the Corporation the historic "Tullie House" and grounds, in Abbey Street, and other property in Castle Street, together with a cash balance of £675 to be utilised for the purposes of a Free Library, Reading Room, School of Art, Science and Technical Schools, Museum, and Picture Gallery, while the members of the Mechanics' Institute also offered their property in Fisher Street, together with their library and all fittings, for the same purpose. The Corporation accepted these gifts, and instructed the City Surveyor, Mr. Howard-Smith, to prepare plans and estimates for the requisite buildings and fittings. These shewed an estimated cost of £10,000 for buildings, and £2,000 for fittings, towards which a grant of £900 is expected from the Science and Art Department on account of the Art School, and a sum of £580 from the County Council. The sale of the building and site of the Mechanics' Library, and the capitalised value of the annual cost of maintaining the present Museum would still further reduce the amount, leaving a sum of £7,000 or £8,000 to be provided by the Corporation. Fortunately the "City Fathers" are both wealthy and liberal in their views. A sum of £5,000 has recently been received by them from the Court of Chancery, and this, with the proceeds of a small sale of land, and, possibly, the disposal of the "Malt Shovel," of which they are the proprietors, and as to which one councillor put it "they proposed to endow a house for clearing their brains instead of muddling them," the funds will be provided without imposing any burden on the ratepayers. The site is an

admirable one, extending as it does from Abbey Street to Castle Street, with an entrance from each, and comprising an area of 4,158 square yards.

The offices and out-buildings of "Tullie House" have been pulled down, and the new buildings, which will be in the same style of architecture as the old mansion (*i.e.* about 1690), are being rapidly proceeded with.

The accommodation (in square feet) shown on the plans, is as follows:—

BASEMENT.—Boys' Reading Room, 1,776 square feet; Store Rooms, Work Rooms, &c., 1,585 square feet; Staircases, Subway, &c., 977 square feet.

GROUND FLOOR.—Librarian's House, 378 square feet; Caretaker's House, Offices, &c., 900 square feet; Covered approach, 1,280 square feet; Entrance Halls, Lobbies, &c., 2,916 square feet; Library portion, 3,774 square feet; Lecture Theatre, 1,749 square feet; Modelling, Store, and Technical Class Rooms, 1,353 square feet; Museum, 3,486 square feet.

MEZZANINE FLOOR.—Cloak Rooms, Lavatories, &c., 328 square feet.

FIRST FLOOR.—Librarian's House, 910 square feet; Caretaker's House, Offices, &c., 918 square feet; Picture Galleries, 2,282 square feet; Science and Art Schools, 3,888 square feet; Museum (Tullie House), 1,370 square feet; Staircases, Corridors and Lobbies, 1,311 square feet. Total floor area, 31,231 square feet.

"Tullie House," which is ultimately intended to be used as a Museum, has meantime been opened as a temporary reading room, and has a weekly attendance of 1,300 to 1,400 readers. The library of the Mechanics' Institute, already referred to, consists of 3,000 to 4,000 volumes, and, with a unique collection of nearly 3,000 volumes entirely relating to the district of Cumberland and Westmoreland, bequeathed by the late Wm. Jackson, F.S.A., St. Bees, will form a valuable nucleus for the Free Library, while the Museum will receive large additions to the present collection; amongst which are a number of Cumberland and Westmoreland antiquities and curiosities from Mr. Ferguson, of Morton, and a very large collection of English birds from Mr. Harrison, of Cockermouth. The penny rate will yield about £670 annually, and it is anticipated that a sum of about £580 per annum will be received from the County Council, while a further sum of £100 per annum may be ex-

pected from the Hon. Trustees by way of scholarships for technical education, so that the citizens of Carlisle may be congratulated on the educational facilities which they have secured for themselves, thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of such men as Chancellor Ferguson, and the enlightened liberality of their representatives.

D. WATSON.



A Famous Industrial Library.

THE above title would naturally apply to any library devoted to industrial art, but it is intended here to refer to one connected with a great spinning and weaving factory—the Pacific Mills, Lawrence, Massachusetts. It was in the year 1879 that the writer visited those mills, and he was struck by the arrangements which existed for the intellectual and moral advancement of the workers, who number about 5,000 men and girls. In addition to the usual means of instruction and amusement in the shape of lectures, &c., he found a remarkable library to which a few words may be usefully devoted, for it should serve as a model to other similar establishments. The library has existed since 1853, when the directors of the Pacific Mills devoted \$1000 to its establishment. It has gradually grown until it contains, according to this year's report, about 9,000 volumes. To secure this increase, and the permanence of the library, the contribution of one cent per week to its funds was for many years made a condition of employment in the mills. The library was open at suitable hours, and in connection therewith there was a convenient reading room for men, and another for girls, in which were placed most of the leading newspapers and periodicals. Of late, complaints were made by many of the hands that as they did not use the library it was unfair to compel them to subscribe for its maintenance, and therefore the directors assumed the whole charge, including the salary of a librarian. The library, of which the total cost has been about \$15,000, is now used regularly by about 800 persons in the company's employ, who may either read on the premises or take the books home.

The printed catalogue consists of an 8vo. volume of 418 pages, with a supplement of 46 pages, and an idea may be formed of the diversified character of the contents by the following titles, taken at random from the beginning and end of the catalogue:—*The Old Distillery* ; *Tried and True* ; *Abbeokuta* ;

The Abbot ; Zina, or Morning Mists ; Principles of Agassiz ; Zschokke's History of Switzerland, and his Tales from the German ; Zurich's Spectacles for Young Eyes.

The works are only printed alphabetically, and there is no classification of the different branches of Art, Science, and Literature, which is a serious drawback, but it is noticeable that great prominence is given to works by American authors, and that a considerable proportion are suitable for juvenile reading, the latter feature being an admirable one where so many girls and youths are employed. It must not be thought, however, that the scope of the library is limited to any great extent in these two directions ; for example we find, on p. 6 of the supplement, works by Robert Chambers, James Boswell, A. K. H. Boyd, Hjalmar, H. Boyesen, Lady Brassey, David Bremner, Stopford Brooke, and James Bryce ; and this is a fair representation of the diversified reading provided by the library.

There are other industrial establishments in the United States to which good libraries are attached, and probably there may be some in this country worthy of mention ; but there can be no doubt that there is a vast field for philanthropic effort in this direction ; and that in the rapidly changing relations between capital and labour, the encouragement of reading—provided no attempt is made to subserve thereby the interests of the employers—cannot fail to exercise a pacific and conciliatory influence.

JAMES SAMUELSON.

*Claughton, Birkenhead,
June 8, 1892.*



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Public Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

BROMLEY, KENT.—The parishioners of Bromley, Kent, have by a majority of 1,298 against 457 decided to adopt the Public Libraries Acts; and the School of Science and Art, of which Sir John Lubbock is chairman, have presented the town with a handsome freehold and building for the purposes of a free library and technical schools. The gift is worth about £8,000.

CAMBRIDGE : A CAMBRIDGE STUDENT CONVICTED OF THEFT.—At Cambridge, William Abbit, B.A., of Downing College, aged nineteen, who recently took mathematical honours, has been charged with stealing fifteen books from the Borough Free Library, and thirty-six from the University Library. The books, of the total value of over £8, were nearly all found at the accused's home at Holyhead. Mr. Abbit, who asserted that he had no felonious intent, was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment.

EDINBURGH.—The Public Library has acquired a perfect copy of the Bassandyne Bible.

JEDBURGH.—The Public Libraries' Acts were unanimously adopted at a public meeting of the inhabitants held on the evening of Monday, 16th May, presided over by Provost Boyd. It was announced that subscriptions amounting to £700, including one of £250 from Mr. Andrew Carnegie, had been promised towards a building, and it is expected that the members of the Mechanics' Institute will hand over their collection of books. The penny rate will yield about £90 a year.

LONDON : FULHAM.—The Commissioners of the Fulham Public Library have issued a very useful four-paged leaflet, giving in brief a complete guide to the lending and reference department, and announcements of their admirable series of free lectures. The Commissioners announce that they are about to establish six posting stations in various parts of the parish, by which the unemployed may see the situation sheets of the the daily newspapers. These sheets will be posted every morning at eight o'clock.

LONDON, FULHAM.—Mr. A. G. Burt, of Richmond Free Library, has been appointed chief assistant here, in the place of Mr. W. Weare, who has been promoted to the assistant librarianship at Whitechapel.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—On June 10th a Free Library for Children was formally opened by the Mayor. His Worship remarked that they had met

to put the coping stone on the free library movement by inaugurating a Children's Library, and he hoped it might be a great success. Mr. Z. Moon, the borough librarian, stated that the Children's Library at present contained 611 volumes, which might be borrowed by any boy or girl in the borough between the ages of seven and fourteen. Everything was free, and no fines would be imposed. The committee had been able to provide this library by the kindness of the trustees of Storer's Charity, who had given them £50. On the motion of Ald. Coltman, seconded by the Town Clerk, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Moon.

WALTHAMSTOW, ESSEX, has adopted the Acts.

WIGAN.—Sir Francis Sharp Powell has given £500 to the Wigan Public Library, towards starting a Boys' Reading Room.

UNITED STATES: PITTSBURG.

The plans for the Public Library have been accepted. Mr. Carnegie originally gave 1,000,000 dollars; on the condition that granite be used he added 100,000 dollars. He has also placed another 1,000,000 dollars, and the proceeds of 50,000 dollars a year in the hands of the art committee. There will be five branch libraries in connection with the principal one.

NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES.

[We are indebted to Mr. Charles E. Hylton, of Wanganui, for the following notes :—]

AUCKLAND.—Sir George Grey has made another presentation to the library of rare and valuable books.

BEACONSFIELD.—A village library has been formed, and will be of great service to the bush settlers.

BLLENHEIM.—After being closed for a few months the library here has been re-opened.

CARTERTON.—The annual report shows that £70 have been expended on new books, and that £50 are carried forward to the new year.

DUNEDIN.—Another free reading room has been opened in the city, being the second opened within the past few months.

PAHIATUA.—The "Public Libraries Act" has been adopted here, and a free library opened.

WAIPAWA.—£81 have been raised for the library by the ladies by means of a fancy fair.

WANGANUI.—A catalogue, a long felt want, is now in the printer's hands.

SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENTS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

LEEK.

The Book Club which was established some eighteen months ago in connection with the Public Free Library, Nicholson Institute, Leek, has now made for itself a recognised position among the educational institutions of the town. For a subscription of 5s. a year, members enjoy the

privilege of access to the more important of the new books of the day in all classes of literature as they issue from the publishers' hands. A subscription of £5 5s. is paid annually to Mudie's Library, Manchester, for the loan of the more expensive books. After the books have been in the Book Club for twelve months they are transferred to the Free Library, for which the Free Library Committee grant to the Book Club an equal sum of money to that raised by the subscriptions to the club, thus getting the books for about half the cost price.

OXFORD EXTENSION TRAVELLING LIBRARIES.

[Extracted from a *Report of the Oxford Delegates for University Extension on the Courses of Lectures and Classes by peripatetic Teachers, conducted under their supervision and in concert with various County Councils, during the Winter 1891-92. Oxford, March 31, 1892.*]

"To each centre of teaching . . . the Delegates send a 'travelling library' of standard books, recommended by the lecturer and provided for the free use of the persons attending the lectures. . . . The 'travelling libraries' . . . have been much used and appreciated. 'In the small towns,' reports one of the lecturers, 'one receives evidence of the intellectual stagnation which normally prevails. "This is the first lecture course of any kind there has been during the twenty-one years I have lived here," remarked one man to me in quite a large place. Under such conditions, one always finds two or three men who have been struggling for years to educate themselves without guidance, and often from unsuitable books; to help such men and to increase their number should be the first object of our work.' In Oxfordshire the use of the 'travelling libraries' is reported to have caused a great demand for books, and strong representations have been made to the County Council to establish County Lending Libraries . . . The difficulty of mastering the technicalities of scientific text-books is to most persons an obstacle never overcome, and one of the most important results of classes such as these will be to open the agricultural journals and other scientific literature to hundreds of students with a keen desire for further knowledge."

LIBRARY OF COLBY UNIVERSITY.

In a letter received from Mr. Edward W. Hall, the librarian of Colby University, Waterville, Maine, he gives the following particulars of the library under his charge :—

"Our library is like hundreds of other college libraries in the U.S. We have 28,000 vols., and only \$3,000 income. No advance has been made in recent years in adding funds for the library, though \$250,000 have been added to the general endowment. Beginning with this year, I give my entire time to the care and administration of the library. For fifteen years I have had also my full amount of teaching, like other professors. The library building is shaped like a Roman cross, each arm being divided into two alcoves on the sides, and three on the ends of the plan, giving 10 alcoves—a very great convenience to us, as we use the Dewey decimal classification. An iron gallery gives easy access to upper shelves. We have a card catalogue, and the shelves are open to our students, who use the library a great deal."

Library of the Constitutional Club.

We have before us a copy of the first report of the Library Committee prepared by Mr. Horace Horne, the Hon.-Librarian, from which we cull the following particulars of the establishment and progress of this library.

In June, 1885, Lord Colchester presented to the Club the "Kidbrooke" Library, consisting of about 3,000 volumes, which had been formed by Charles Abbot, 1st Baron Colchester, and Speaker of the House of Commons (1802-1817), at his country residence of that name.

In October, 1886, the General Committee addressed a circular-letter to the Members of the Club, inviting them to assist the Committee :

"In the formation of a Library worthy of the Club, the funds at their disposal not admitting of this being done promptly and efficiently without the help of Members."

In response to this appeal, 253 Members subscribed a sum of £439, and others presented 130 volumes.

At the Annual Meeting in May, 1887, the following resolutions were passed :—

1. That the best thanks of the Constitutional Club be offered to the Right Hon. Lord Colchester for his splendid and valuable gift of about 3,000 volumes, which will form the nucleus of a Library worthy of the largest Conservative Club in the world.

2. That the Annual Subscriptions be 5 guineas and 3 guineas in lieu of £5 and £3.

The latter resolution placed at the disposal of the General Committee the means of promptly and efficiently organising a Club Library.

The Library Committee was constituted in March, 1887, as follows :—J. C. C. McCaul (*Chairman*), Revd. F. A. Bright, Revd. C. Harbord Heath, Henry Bohn, Horace Horne (*Hon. Librarian*), their duties being to form and manage the Club Library and to determine and supervise the Books of Reference, Periodical Literature, and Daily Papers to be supplied throughout the Club House.

The Library Committee have prepared two Catalogues :—1. Authors.
2. Subjects.

The former has just been re-written, and, including all gifts and additions up to date, shows a total of 9,850 volumes. Of these 7,320 have been purchased by the Library Committee at an expenditure of £2,970, or an average of about 8s. 2d. per volume ; the highest price volume being £9 and the lowest 9d. £120 has been expended in binding.

The "Kidbrooke" Library contained many valuable works in Ancient and Modern Literature, History, Topography, Travels, and Theology, but no publication of later date than 1830. About 600 volumes consisted of Blue Books, Parliamentary Reports, and obsolete Law Books never likely to be referred to, and have not been placed in the Library nor entered in the Catalogue.

The Library Committee have bestowed much attention on the History Presses, which will be found to contain most of the authorities recommended by Messrs. Gardiner and Mullinger in their *Introduction to English History*.

In conclusion, the Library Committee desire to thank the Subscribers to the Library Fund, the Donors of Books and Members who have suggested books to be purchased (suggestions have been almost invariably adopted), and to impress on all the fact that many of the volumes in the library are rare and costly, could only be replaced with difficulty and expense, that books may well rank among our best friends, and deserve our gentle treatment and protection.

Reports of Libraries.

Cambridge University. Annual Report of the Library Syndicate for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1890. pp. 15.

New building was handed over to the Vice-Chancellor at the beginning of the year. 5,760 titles printed for the General Catalogue. Considerable progress made with the Catalogue of Fifteenth Century Books. To 183 persons, not members of the University, were granted tickets; this number includes 60 students of Newnham and Girton Colleges. 28,017 vols. borrowed from the Library. Through the kindness of the Hon. and Rev. S. W. Lawley the Syndicate were able to buy the unique York Breviary, formerly Mr. Sherbrooke's. Mr. Sandars' contribution of £50 aided the purchase of the famous Red Book of Thorney Abbey. The accounts are published in the University Accounts, p. 50.

Stroud Free Library. Third Annual Report, 1890-1. 14 pp. Librarian, Henry Twissell.

415,079 visits recorded as against 298,981 last year. 55,475 books issued against 60,535, but the Library has not been open so many days. The Committee have been obliged to close the Lending Library for some months on account of the prevalence of scarlet fever in the town.

AFRICA.

Kimberley Public Library. Ninth Annual Report, 1890-91. 4 pp. Librarian, Mrs. Lord.

Diminution in number of subscribers, amount of money received and issues attributed to "the prolonged period of depression, and contraction of trade which Kimberley has experienced." There are 14,370 vols. in Library which have been issued 20,306 times. Income £2,417, including £356 brought forward from previous year.

NEW ZEALAND.

Wanganui. Fourteenth Annual Report (for the year 1890) of the Directors of the Wanganui Public Library (incorporated under the Public Libraries Act 1875.) 3 pp. Librarian, — Hylton.

"This institution has not, for several years, received any public moneys whatever." New catalogue is being prepared at a cost of £15. "It is over twelve years since the last catalogue was printed, and it is considered desirable to have a new catalogue, as there is a large number of good books upon the shelves which would be sure to circulate more freely if they were better known to the subscribers." 202 vols. have been added during the year, making the total of books in the library 4,293. Issues 14,181 as against 14,069 last year. Income £240.

AMERICA.

Chicago. Nineteenth Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Public Library, June, 1891. pp. 45. Librarian, Frederick H. Hild.

166,475 vols. in library, with a total circulation of 1,290,514,—942,248 vols. of which were taken upon cards for home use. 492,837 visits were

made to the Reading Room, 105,606 visits to the several reference departments. Medical Department discontinued, its contents being handed over to the Newberry Library. "It is designed to construct the exterior of the [new] building, so that it shall be an honor to our city, ethically as well as architecturally, without profusion of meaningless ornament on the one hand, or of common-place simplicity on the other, but aiming to convey, exteriorly, that idea of dignity and repose that should mark its use and completeness." It is claimed too that "a great advantage of our Library lies in its perfect freedom from political interference and dictation." The State Library Act has been amended by the Legislature, which enables the tax levy for library purposes to be increased "from one half of a mill to two mills, for a period of five years." There are 26 delivery stations through which 294,880 vols. have been issued. Four delivery wagons are now required to carry the books to and from the stations, five of which are also Branch Reading Rooms. Scandinavian literature is represented by 3,944 vols., whilst Portuguese literature by only 26. 23,815 borrowers were registered during the year. The issue of "English Prose Fiction and Juveniles" forms 62.36 per cent. 15,190 vols. sent to the "Binderies," and the attendants repaired 14,875 vols.

JAPAN.

Tokyo Library, established in 1872. Extract from Annual Report, 1890. 6 pp. Librarian, I. Tanaka.

In the Library are 97,550 Japanese and Chinese Books, and 25,559 European, making a total of 123,109 books, with an issue of 247,228. Number of readers, 36,113.

SWITZERLAND.

Bibliothèque Publique [Genève]. *Compte-Rendu pour l'année 1890.* pp. 8. Conservateur, Ph. Roget.

Income, 45,980 francs. Several legacies announced, including one of 2,000 francs from M. Gustave Revilliod, who in February, 1868, gave 100,000 francs towards building the new Library; he served on the Committee for 29 years. In 286 days, 28,088 vols. have been issued for reference to 1,063 readers, not counting the works on the open shelves. 631 vols. have been issued for home reading by special permission. The two Lending Libraries have issued, between them, 90,538 vols. In the Reading Room on *Rive Gauche* 5,371 readers have consulted 6,743 vols. It is thought advisable to keep this room open till 10, so that the working classes may have a further opportunity for using it. Of the 600 new borrowers 35 are termed "foreigners."

Library Association of the United Kingdom.

The last Monthly Meeting of the season was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, June 13th, at 8.30 p.m. Mr. Tedder in the Chair.

Mr. DAVID STOTT read the following paper :—

BOOKSELLERS' DISCOUNT TO FREE LIBRARIES.

I trust I shall be pardoned for introducing this subject to the notice of the Library Association, but seeing that it is a cause of a good deal of disturbance in the bookselling business, I find myself constrained to take advantage of your Secretary's offer to make a few remarks on the subject, in the hope that some good may result.

It may not be known to you that the booksellers of London have formed themselves into a society for the protection of the trade, and with a desire to place the business of bookselling on a proper basis. To a great extent they have succeeded in establishing a considerable part of their programme, and they are now in a happier frame of mind than they have been for many years. They are now working harmoniously, and they have social gatherings which at one time seemed perfectly impossible and impracticable.

At the present moment they have only one considerable grievance which has been discussed at several of their council meetings without any practical issue, and that is the question of excessive discount on books to Free Libraries. We have talked over the matter and looked at it in all its bearings without a glimmer of light being forthcoming on the subject. It has therefore occurred to me that I might, as a member of the Association, bring the subject before you in the hope that together we may be able to solve the question.

The discounts which have been allowed to free libraries through excessive competition have now grown to such an extent that there is really no profit on any business which is done, and the chief ground of complaint which, as booksellers, we make against the librarians and the committees of free libraries is, that they do not seek the local bookseller as the vehicle through whom their purchases should be made, but rather some tradesman on the very borders of the bookselling business, such as a printer or a newsagent. Another complaint is that in place of spending the money in the town where the rate is levied for the maintenance of the Free Library, the order for books is given to some distant town where, shall I call him an enterprising but foolish man, undertakes to supply the books at a fraction of profit which is microscopical.

Now I am not blaming the committee or librarian for seeking to buy in the cheapest market, but in this matter I question if he is advancing the popularity of the free library movement.

It has come under the notice of the booksellers' society that as much as 33, 35 and even 40% discount has been allowed on library orders. How it is done heaven only knows. On ordinary books such discounts are impossible, and the only hypothesis is that books known in the trade as "remainders," which can be had for a mere song, are included in the lists which are submitted for competition, and the profit is made on them. Now, my contention is that if these lists were submitted to the best bookseller in the town where the free library is situated, he would eliminate these remainder books and tender for them separately from the ordinary run of books. It so happens now that the best booksellers will not tender for library estimates because the committee will only accept a lump discount from the total demand.

I have no desire to blame any one for this state of affairs, but rather to indicate the inconvenience of the present mode of doing business and to suggest a remedy. I might indeed say a great deal more, but not having the wish to wound any one's feelings, whether librarian or member of any free library committee, I will forbear.

My remedy is a very simple one, and I trust it will meet with your consideration and assistance. It is simply that the free libraries should not seek a greater discount than 25%, with an additional 2½% if the order amounts to more than £100. This may seem rather a drastic remedy in the light of the heavy discounts which have already been allowed to the libraries, but I am convinced that nothing short of this will afford much satisfaction to booksellers and tend to allay the growing antipathy to free libraries on the part of the trade.

Another matter I would strongly urge is that all free library orders

for books should be distributed in the town or district in which the library is situated. If there are several booksellers in the neighbourhood let them all be requested to say if they propose estimating for a library order, and those who do not wish it can be left out. If this is done in a straightforward way many advantages will be secured by the libraries. Booksellers will then be ready and willing to send up for the committees' inspection all new books as published, so that the committee can then judge for themselves as to their suitability. A librarian will be welcome to ransack a booksellers' shelves and allowed to make himself at home, instead of being regarded as an interloper who is merely making notes to send a list away to be made up at some distant town, and the money spent where the rate is not levied.

I trust this will commend itself to you in a favourable light, and the bookseller and librarian alike be placed on a better understanding.

DISCUSSION.

Mr. FRANK J. BURGOYNE (Lambeth Public Libraries) said that they had been listening to a plea in favour of a system of false economy. In every trade it was recognized that the purchaser of large quantities of any article, whose credit was above suspicion, should be able to buy at a cheaper rate than the buyer of a single article. In all London bookshops a discount of 3d. in a shilling, or 25%, was allowed to the casual buyer of a 'shilling shocker,' and yet Mr. Stott seriously argued that a library, spending perhaps £1,000 in a year, should buy at the same rate, less a cash discount of 2½%. The principle of extra discounts for quantities was carried out by the bookseller himself, for he obtained thirteen copies to the dozen, if he was able to buy so large a number of any work. Mr. Stott had also suggested that all books should be bought in the parish or district in which the money for their purchase was raised, but about three-fifths of the stock of an ordinary library were purchased second-hand at prices equivalent to 50 to 80 per cent. discount from published prices, and as for the remainder, it was a new theory which did not commend itself to his judgment that rates paid by the whole of the inhabitants should be spent in the district, to benefit the one or two booksellers who happened to be resident therein. Instead of libraries being content with smaller discounts, he thought that in London at any rate they should have larger, for when he was in charge of a library in the North of England he had been offered the same terms as he now obtained, and surely if it paid a middleman in the north to give such advantages, the London bookseller should be able to give still better terms.

Mr. J. D. BROWN (Clerkenwell) said that in his opinion the matter was one which ought to be entirely settled by the booksellers themselves. It was well known that agreement as to discounts could never be relied upon, because if a publisher issued a book at the net price of 6/- and sold it to the trade at 5/6 there would always be some foolish bookseller anxious to give it away for 5/9. In these circumstances he thought that library committees were perfectly justified in buying in the cheapest market. As regarded the argument that libraries should buy books only in their own districts, he had simply to say that so far as Clerkenwell was concerned there wasn't a single bookseller in it, and he had no doubt many other places were similarly situated.

Mr. H. W. FINCHAM said that, speaking as a library commissioner, he saw no reason whatever why books should not be purchased as cheaply as possible. It was certainly false economy to speak of buying only locally, if books could be got cheaper elsewhere; and practically amounted to returning one man's library rate at the expense of all the other ratepayers. Libraries had only limited funds available for the purchase of books, and for that reason alone it was absolutely necessary that library commissioners should go to the cheapest market.

Mr. MASON (St. Martin's) said he had great sympathy with the booksellers. He for one did not wish a discount which left nothing or next to nothing to the bookseller, but so long as his neighbours obtained 33½ or more he must get his books on these terms. He thought the books ought to be bought in the

parish or town when they could be bought there as cheaply as elsewhere, and he strongly deprecated librarians going direct to the publishers. The booksellers could be of great service to the librarian, and it was grossly unfair to cut down his profits to zero on small orders, and when one had a large order on which the bookseller might have a small profit to go past him to the publisher. They should live and let live.

Mr. W. H. K. WRIGHT (Plymouth) considered that the matter was entirely in the hands of the booksellers themselves, and he did not see how librarians could interfere. So long as respectable booksellers could be found to allow exorbitant discounts, library committees would, as a matter of course, be willing to accept their terms. He presumed that most libraries and library committees accepted the lowest tenders, compatible with good work, in printing and book-binding, and he saw no reason therefore why the same course should not be adopted with regard to the supply of books. As a matter of fact his committee were satisfied with a reasonable discount, but he knew of another library in the town where better terms had been offered and accepted, and in this case there was no opportunity for the bookseller gaining any extra profit from the supply of "remainders." The booksellers should unite to protect themselves before asking their customers to help them.

Mr. WAKELING (Carlton Club Library) could see no protection for the retail bookseller from excessive discounts except that which could and should be given by the publishers.

Mr. E. FOSKETT (Camberwell) pointed out that the development of the public library movement gave an impetus to the sale of books by stimulating a taste for reading. This was not denied by those in a position to know the facts. The business of the bookseller and publisher, therefore, benefited by the work in which librarians were engaged. It was hardly to be expected that librarians, who naturally desired to do their best for the institutions under their charge, would be content to purchase, say, £100 worth of books at the same rate as the public could buy a single volume. He doubtless often paid too much for many things about which he knew little or nothing. He would do his best for the booksellers by creating readers, but he could not see his way to oblige them by intentionally paying more than the lowest market value. Publishers and booksellers might, with advantage, perhaps, revise their discount to the general public; but, whatever conclusion they came to, librarians would continue to buy as cheaply as possible.

Mr. CEDRIC CHIVERS (Bath) thought that the present cutting system would hold until the publishers refused to grant better terms to the large buyer than they granted to the small one. To anyone acquainted with the book trade this would sound preposterous, but it was a simple principle which would certainly work for the benefit of the publisher, and a larger clientèle among the smaller booksellers. The purchaser of large quantities should be satisfied with his larger volume of trade without claiming more profit on the individual book he sold than the smaller trader could obtain. It seemed to him the matter was entirely in the hands of the publishers, whose best interests would be consulted by some arrangement which would encourage the smaller retailers of the country to stock books and good books.

Mr. MACDONALD believed that the evils complained of could be remedied by the trade themselves coming to an agreement to allow fixed and regular discounts. Unless such an agreement was come to and acted on in good faith they could not expect buyers to refuse the advantages offered to them in the shape of extra discounts. Private buyers ought not to be put on such favourable terms as large libraries, but probably the most practical method would be to make some special concession on orders above a certain amount. The one point however, was, that any agreement come to should be strictly adhered to, and the trade alone could act in this matter. That business should be done at an inadequate profit was in the long run against the interests of both buyers and sellers.

Mr. MACALISTER hoped that although he had never had the good fortune to be the librarian of a public library, he would not be deemed impertinent if he took part in the discussion. As the librarian of a large library in the north of England he had found that he gained many advantages from the booksellers so long as they were able to make a reasonable profit on the basis of the 25% discount. The booksellers, in fact, became unsalaried but valuable officials of

the library, and were of great service in looking out for and reporting books which they knew were wanted for the library, and in supplying punctually, without specific orders, the volumes of works in continuation, and of series published at irregular intervals. Mr. Mac Alister found, on comparing notes with other libraries that insisted on a larger discount, that their saving was often an imaginary one; and that it was no uncommon thing to find them buying quantities of "remainders" at the published prices, less the usual discount. He remembered that on one occasion a large public library near him bought several copies of a book published at 31/6, less only the usual discount, which he had, a few days before, purchased from his honest and contented bookseller at 6/- per copy. The bookseller ought to be able to live by the legitimate profit on the sale of books, and ought not to be tempted—nay, compelled—to make a living by indirect and mysterious profits in other ways. He certainly sympathised with the opinion that libraries should purchase, as far as possible, within their own districts, for, although it was true that the direct profit was received by only one favoured ratepayer, still the bulk of it would probably be spent in the district, and booksellers and ratepayers had as much right to complain of purchasing outside the district as the British citizen had to complain of his Government buying its post-cards and other stationery in Germany. Still it was impossible that the existing state of things could be remedied by librarians or by their committees, who could not be expected to sign a "Self-denying Ordinance." Booksellers must be true to each other and protect themselves.

Mr. DAVID STOTT in replying, frankly acknowledged that the subject was not without its difficulties, and he thanked the librarians for the expression of their views. He deprecated the idea that booksellers were opposed to free libraries, as on the contrary he felt sure that wherever there was a well equipped free library two or three booksellers' shops were to be found not far off, and it was really with a view of drawing the bookseller and librarian closer together that he advocated the desirability of the commissioners and librarians buying their books in their own town, and being content with a moderate discount. The publishers, as they had heard to-night, did not always act in harmony with the booksellers in the matter of free libraries, and that was one of the reasons why he desired the co-operation of the libraries in enabling the bookseller to get a fair profit out of library orders. He hoped that the remarks which has been made in the course of the evening might awaken an interest on the subject to their mutual advantage.

In the absence of the author a paper was read on:—

"SUSPENDED IRON PRESSES AS A GENERAL SYSTEM OF BOOK ACCOMMODATION IN LARGE LIBRARIES."* (This will appear in an early number.)

A short anonymous Note on

"DUST IN LIBRARIES"

was then read.

Brief discussions followed the reading of these papers, and votes of thanks to the authors and to the chairman for presiding brought the meeting to a close.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Contributions towards a Dictionary of English Book-Collectors, as also of some foreign collectors, whose libraries were incorporated in English Collections, or whose books are chiefly met with in England.

Part I. The Libraries of Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, and of Bilibald Pirckheimer, of Nuremberg.

* The author of this paper will oblige by sending his address to the Hon. Secretaries.

London : Bernard Quaritch, May, 1892. 8vo. pp. 28, 6, with 3 plates. Price 1s. 6d.

We heartily wish Mr. Quaritch all possible success in his latest venture in publishing. Except the scanty and inaccurate notices scattered among the works of Dibdin, no account of English Book Collectors is in existence, and librarians and book-buyers of the present day should gladly welcome any attempt to adequately supply this hiatus in library literature. The letterpress of the new Dictionary, we are given to understand, is to be a labour of love on the part of the contributors, Mr. Quaritch providing, in addition to paper and print, all necessary illustrations, whether of book-plates, armorial bearings, bindings, or portraits. The work is to be issued in parts, each article being separately paged, so that binding in chronological order may be facilitated. An excellent beginning is made in the present part, to which the Rev. Edward Burbidge has contributed a sketch of Cranmer's career as a book-buyer, and a long list of books from his library still extant, while from Mr. M. Kerney we have a really admirable little study of Pirckheimer. Cranmer seems to have started book-buying at the University, and the subsequent stages of his career can be very fairly well traced out in the subjects of his purchases at different periods. On his death "it appears that in the general scramble the main part of the books fell into the hands of Henry Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel, and Lord High Steward to Queen Mary." Arundel kept the best for himself, and gave the rest to his son-in-law, Lord Lumley, to whom he subsequently bequeathed his own collection. On Lord Lumley's death in 1609, most of his books were purchased by Henry, Prince of Wales, to whom he had been tutor. As part of the Royal Collection, Prince Henry's books found their way to the British Museum, by the gift of George II., in 1757, and most unhappily were scattered over the six hundred presses which then formed the Museum Library. By the industry of Mr. Burbidge 369 printed volumes, containing 355 works, have been identified, chiefly at the Museum as indubitably Cranmer's, most of them having his name inscribed in them, though probably by a secretary, not by the Archbishop himself. In addition to these must be reckoned 42 MSS., containing 93 separate works. Of all these a full list is given, so that it is possible to reconstruct to some extent Cranmer's library, despite the annoying disappearance of many liturgies and other religious works, in which the MS. notes he so frequently appended would have been of extreme interest. Mr. Kerney's list of some of Pirckheimer's books is much shorter than Mr. Burbidge's, but his note on Pirckheimer's life and on his relations with Albert Dürer and the Reformers is extremely interesting. Mr. Quaritch's "contribution" to this number consists of a fine portrait of Pirckheimer, from Dürer's copper-engraving of 1524, and his two book-plates—one woodcut, the other engraved—in both of which Dürer had probably a hand.

Espinosa's "Flores."

GEORGE TICKNOR says of the "Flores" of Pedro Espinosa "unhappily the book itself is among the rarest in Spanish poetry." It possesses a considerable amount of literary interest and its bibliographical history seems to be very curious.

The author, Pedro Espinosa, was born at Antequera in Andalusia about 1582, and he died at San Lucar de Barrameda, 21 October, 1650. He was almoner to the Duke of Medina Sidonia and when that nobleman founded the College of St. Ildefonso at San Lucar he placed Espinosa in the position of Rector. In addition to the "Flores," Espinosa was the author of an *Elogio al retrato del excellentissimo señor D. Manuel Alonso Perez de Guzman el Bueno, Duque de Medina-Sidonia* (Malaga 1625); *Panegirico a la ciudad de Antequera* (Xeres 1626); *Arte de bien morir* (Madrid 1651); *Tesoro escondido* (San Lucar 1644); and *Espejo de cristal* which went through several editions.

But he is remembered chiefly by the *Flores de Poetas ilustres de España* which appeared in 1605. Ticknor has well described the character and interest of this collection in the following passage:—

"Perhaps a better idea of the lyric poetry in highest favour among the more cultivated classes of Spanish society at the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth century can be obtained from the collection of Pedro Espinosa, entitled 'Flowers from the most Famous Poets of Spain' than from any other single volume, or from any single author. It was printed in 1605 and contains more or less of the works of about sixty poets of that period, including Espinosa himself, of whom we have sixteen pieces that are worthy of their place. Most of the collection consists of lyric verse in usual forms—chiefly Italian, but not unfrequently national—and many of the writers are familiar to us. Among them are Lope de Vega, Quevedo, and others already noticed, together with Góngora, the Argensolas, and some of their contemporaries.

"Several of the poets from whom it gives selections or contributions are to be found nowhere else—such as two ladies

named Narvaez and another called Doña Christovalina : while from time to time we find poems by obscure authors, like those of Pedro de Liñan and Augustin de Texada Paez, which from their considerable merit it would have been a misfortune to lose. But Fernando de Herrera does not appear at all ; and of more than two-thirds of its authors, only one or two short pieces are given. It is to be regarded then as an exhibition of the taste of the age when it appeared, rather than as a selection of what was really best and highest in the older and more recent Spanish lyric poetry at the opening of the seventeenth century. But whatever we may think of it in this point of view, it is certainly among the more curious materials for a history of that poetry ; and before we condemn Espinosa for selecting less wisely than he might have done, we should remember that, after all, his taste was probably more refined than that of his age, since a second part of his collection which he proposed to publish was never called for, though he continued to be known as an author many years after the appearance of the first."—(*History of Spanish Literature*, London, 1855, vol. ii. p. 478.)

The book is a small quarto with the following title :

Primera Parte | De las Flores | de Poetas Ilvstres de |
 España, Diuidida en dos Libros. | Ordenada por Pedro |
 Espinosa natural de la ciudad de | Antequera. | Dirigida al
 Señor | Duque de Bejar. | Van escritas diez y seis Odas de
 Horacio, tra- | duzidas por diferentes y graues Autores, |
 admirablemente. Con Privilegio. En Valladolid, Por Luys
 Sanchez. | Año M.D.CV.

The volume consists of 204 numbered leaves and 12 leaves of preliminary matter and index. The price, unbound, is fixed at 153 maravedis in a "Tassa" signed by Alonso de Vallejo, escrivano de Cámara del Rey.

Ticknor had two copies of this volume which are now with his other Spanish books in the collection he bequeathed to the Boston Public Library. Mr. J. L. Whitney in his excellent Catalogue of that collection (Boston 1879, p. 130) has the following note on the bibliographical peculiarities of the book :—

"These two copies vary slightly. In the first, ff 126, 127, have been reprinted, as is shown by the difference in type and paper ; the same folios in the latter copy contain a sonnet by Valdes which is also to be found on folio 20. According to Gallardo these folios were reprinted in order to omit this sonnet. Gallardo also states that ff 202, 203 (by an error the latter is

numbered 127), have been reprinted, probably on account of some profanity in a sonnet by Quevedo, which does not appear in either copy.

"In the first copy signature Rr is repeated, ff 175, 176 are misplaced, and the folios of the *Tabla* are bound at the beginning, while in the latter they are bound at the end."

The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres has a copy with the *Tabla* at the beginning and without the duplication of Rr, or the misplacing of 175. It contains sonnets by Valdes, at ff 126, 127, but not a repetition of that on folio 20. It does not contain the sonnet by Quevedo on f 203 b.

My own copy, still in its original binding, has the *Tabla* at the beginning, has no duplicate of Rr, has 175 in its right place; has the repetition of Valdes from f 20, and finally does contain the sonnet by Quevedo which is missing from each of the copies so far described. The reason assigned for the cancelling of this sonnet may excite some curiosity about it. It reads as follows:

Llegó á los piés de Christo Madalena
De todo su vivir arrepentida,
Y viéndole á la mesa, enterrecida
Lágrimas derramó en copiosa vena,
Soltó del oro crespo la melena
Con orden natural entretexida,
Y desseossa de alcançar la vida,
Con lágrimas bañó su faz serena.
Con un vaso de unguento los sagrados
Piés de Jesus ungió, y él diligente
La perdonó (por paga) sus pecados,
Y pues aqueste exemplo veys presente,
Albricias, boticarios desdichados,
Que oy da la gloria Christo por unguente.

The following is my own rough rendering:—

Slow to the sacred feet of Christ she came,
Where He and His sat at their evening meal;
And at those feet the Magdalen did kneel
And of her past she thought with heartfelt blame.
Loose fell her hair, a golden frame
That not a single beauty could conceal.
Her falling tears the longing soul reveal.
O! for a way to win from sin and shame.
She took a flask of spikenard in hand
And with it, and her tears, she bathed His feet,
Who quick forgave her sins; her soul made well.
Apothecaries, once a luckless band,
Honour and joy for you are surely meet
Since Christ gives heaven for what you have to sell.

My friend, Mr. John W. Bone, F.S.A., whose acquaintance with Spanish is much more extensive than my own, has favoured me with the following elegant "revised version" :—

Slow to the sacred feet of Christ she came,
Where He and His sat at the evening meal ;
There, all in tears, the Magdalen did kneel,
Weeping her sinful years, with heartfelt blame.
Her hair down falls, a wavy golden flame
That nought avails her beauty to conceal ;
Her scalding tears a yearning heart reveal
Longing to rise to Life from sin and shame.
A fragrant flask of spikenard in her hand,
She with it, midst her tears, anoints His feet.
He prompt her sins blots out, makes her soul well.
O ye who trade in unguents, unblest band !
Now joy be yours ! your thanks are surely meet,
That Christ still glory gives for ointment that you sell.

No doubt the last line is the ground of the condemnation, but whether the reason was religious is doubtful. The canon law lays down grounds of various causes for the suppression of a book or of passages in it. Thus it may be "heretical;" or "savouring of heresy;" or "scandalous;" or "offensive to pious ears." Probably the sonnet might be held to come under the last class, which is also called "evil sounding" and is defined as "opposed to piety and the reverence due to sacred things according to the common mode of speaking."

It may have been the action of a local censor, or Espinosa may himself have had second thoughts that the sonnet was open to a coarse construction.

It will be noticed from the title page of Espinosa's book that amongst its other claims to attention may be included that of being at least a partial Spanish translation of Horace. The versions are by Lupercio Leonardo de Argensola, Bartolomé Martínez, Juan de Aguilar, Diego Ponce de Leon y Guzman, Diego de Mendoza, Juan de Morales, and Luys Martin.

Altogether the *Flores de ilustres Poetas de España*, has a considerable amount of bibliographical interest apart from being as Ticknor calls it in a MS. note "one of the rarest of good books."

WILLIAM E. A. AXON.

Manchester.

English Romance in French Translation, 1780-1830.

AN admiration for things English, not seldom amounting to pronounced Anglomania, is well known to have heralded the French Revolution. Even after Great Britain took up the gage of Danton, this tendency survived in one form at least, the passion for English fiction. Hardly checked by the Peninsular war or by Waterloo, this rose almost to frenzy with the restoration of the Bourbons, and though cooled by domestic rivals, still burns with a constant flame.

A curious record of the first half century of this movement is to be found in the Library of the British Museum, in a collection of French translations of English novels, which once formed part of a circulating library at Amsterdam. They are mostly in sets of three volumes, that pernicious format, and bound with a uniform flimsiness which seems to show that only an ephemeral career was expected of each. Starting from Fielding and Smollett the collection ranges through Galt and Maturin and their half-forgotten compeers Mrs. Inchbald, Mrs. Radcliffe, and the Sisters Porter, to "le nommé sir Valter-Scott," as one of the translators calls him.

The frequent prefaces of the translators are interesting and instructive, and a few extracts from them will serve to indicate the attitude of France to her pacific invaders.

A certain M. Bertin, who adapts Sheridan's "Rivals" into a novel he calls *Delia* (1817), is philosophically minded for a translator, and attempts to shew what caused the gap in French literature which England has been allowed to fill up. He ascribes it to the "marivaudage" then prevalent, and in the case of the drama to an undue observance of the unities, or, to adopt his elegant periphrasis, to "a sort of religious cult paid to the decrees of the Stagirite." Another (1796) traces the popularity of the English novel to the fact that it "describes with frightful exactness the great upheavals of society that we have but just experienced," another to its representing virtue triumphant and vice disgraced, and so supporting the foundations of the social

pact. This exalted theory appears, as might be guessed, when the Indivisible Republic is very young indeed. The translator of Peacock's *Anthelia Melincourt* thinks that the public who are so attached to "the representative and constitutional sublime," cannot fail to welcome a work in which venality and corruption are so powerfully exposed.

In the earlier part of the period under consideration it seems to have been regarded as a chief merit of the English novel to hold the mirror up to nature. The translator of an anonymous novel *The Summer Visit*, presents it as a humble follower of *Clarissa* [Harlowe] and points to the great vogue of that work in France to prove the taste for the unartificial romance of England. "Le bon ton, s'écrivent nos gens de grand monde. La nature ! s'écrie l'Anglais."

The religious spirit was not very strong in the earlier part at least of the period of English literature we have to deal with, but at times it appears; and the preface-writer, born malign, meets it with gentle banter. "The author," cries one, "is a great deal too fond of saying to his young lovers, 'Be a Christian, and you shall have a pretty wife.'" One would have expected to find small favour shown to the supernatural element so strongly present in the works of Mrs. Radcliffe and her school; whose readers "see nothing pass before their eyes but spectres and magicians, dream of nothing but mediæval castles, prisons, and manors, hear nothing but sepulchral voices, cries of beauty in distress, and lovers' vengeance." But no, "an indescribable quantity of these works escape from the fogs of the Thames, and hardly have they crossed the Channel before a thousand pens hasten to do them the honour of translation." Mrs. Radcliffe's interminable descriptions of landscapes palled sooner than her melodrama, but the remedy was simple,—the translators, as one of them candidly avows, made a practice of omitting them. So curtailed, Mrs. Radcliffe lived on till Walter Scott taught the public better things. On the other hand, it is surprising to find the charge of impropriety brought against British products, not only in the period of *Tom Jones*, which one would suppose hardly too highly seasoned for the Gallic palate, but in the days when Mrs. Inchbald was a name to conjure with. As early as 1788, in the preface to a translation of the *Adventures of Anthony Varnish*, we find the warning note, "English literature is infested with little romances or 'historiettes' of gallantry,

known by the name of novels . . . These contain descriptions that startle modesty, and put it to the blush." Next year, the preface to the *Curieuse Impertinente*, a translation from the English, takes up the strain. "The translator has taken care to soften down a number of expressions bordering on the indecent. The English tongue is not so strict as our own: though as for morality, the two nations cannot throw stones at one another." A translator of Sterne confesses not only to having bowdlerised his author, but to having put in pleasantries of his own manufacture in place of the objectionable ones. The "Simple Story" of Mrs. Inchbald is found to contain "more than one passage difficult to reconcile with French tastes;" though these blemishes are admitted to be insignificant. Here perhaps, the sex of the author saves her from rougher treatment; the success of women in literature about that time was remarkable. We even find the translator of *Glenfell*, introducing it with a half-jocular apology for its not being the work of a woman. Another translator expresses a fear that the gentle feminine melancholy will destroy the jollity which always used to characterise the genius of the French.

From the bibliographer's point of view, the collection presents some curious features. English names, as might have been expected, often turn "into something rich and strange." Miss Woodville becomes Woodwill, Mrs. Damer appears as Dymmer, Sir Thomas Dick Lauder as Sir Edward Maccauley, Baronnet Ecossais; and, strangest of all, a certain J. Horsley Curties appears, to the confusion of cataloguers, as Monsieur Horstley. Often these stumbling-blocks are unheroically avoided by simple omission of the author's names, "traduit de l'anglais" seeming to be recommendation enough. It must, however, be admitted that when French publishers thoroughly grasped an English writer's name, they did not let it go in a hurry, and many are the productions of third-rate imitations of Mrs. Radcliffe, that were fathered on Fielding and Smollett.

JOHN MACFARLANE.

Jan van Doesborgh.

SO little is known of the history of printing in the Netherlands during the early years of the sixteenth century, that any attempt, however imperfect, to dispel a small portion of the enveloping darkness is worth making. In strong contrast to the typography of the previous century, which in the Netherlands alone, of all countries, has yet received at all adequate treatment, the scarcely less interesting period succeeding appears to be quite neglected except for detached notices of single books. To English readers and students it is chiefly remarkable for the numerous books in English which were issued from the various presses of Antwerp. The place was naturally adapted from its situation for such a trade with England, but the first beginnings of it are due to the printer Leeu, whose influence doubtless to some extent determined the character of the books issued. These were for some time chiefly of three kinds, romances, almanacks, service-books, until a new influence, that of the Reformation, caused a complete change, so that from about 1530 onwards, down to quite the end of the century, the English presses at Antwerp were monopolised by the theologians of the party which might be undermost at the time.

Among those who may have inherited Leeu's traditions and practice with regard to English trade, Jan van Doesborgh is by far the most important. The only attempt at a collection of what is known about him is that in the Note by Prof. Arber prefixed to his reprint of the "New Lands" [*The first three English books on America*, 1885; p. xxv]. This, while not professing to be anything more than an opening of the subject, is very useful as a guide to further investigation, and illustrates the peculiar difficulty of obtaining information about either the printer or his productions.

Of Jan van Doesborgh's life, we know but little, and that is almost purely impersonal. His birthplace, Doesborgh, is a small town not far from Arnhem, at the junction of the Oude and Nieuwe Ijssel. Its sole appearance in history is in the year

1585, when it was sacked by the Spaniards.¹ Like so many of the Dutch and Belgian printers Doesborgh seems never to have made use of his true surname. He comes to light for the first time in 1508, when he was admitted as "vrijmeester" of the Sint Lucas-gilde, being described as "verlichtere" or miniature-painter.² This description is thought by Dr. Campbell³ to shew that he was not at that time a printer. This does not seem altogether a necessary assumption, many printers combining other occupations with the art during the early years of typography;⁴ and putting aside the very doubtful evidence of the so-called "Arnold's Chronicle," it is improbable that he would have succeeded to Roelandt van den Dorpe's business so long as eight years after his death. Dorpe's widow carried on his business, but seemingly for only a short time, for no books printed by her appear to be dated after 1501; but we find the devices used by both Dorpe and his widow in Doesborgh's hands about 1510, as well as his types and woodcuts. But it is not unusual for a few years to elapse between the close of one printer's career and the beginning of that of his successor, as for instance, in the case of Pynson and Machlinia. Dorpe, who died in 1500, lived at first (in 1497) "in die huyvetters strate, bi onser vrouwen broeders."⁵ But a later book, the "Seer minnelijcke woerden," is dated from the Iron Balance, "aen dijseren waghe."⁶ It is from the house with this sign that the books printed by Dorpe's widow were issued, and the name appears in the colophons of several of Doesborgh's books. Although it is nowhere expressly stated, there can be little doubt that this same place is meant in other colophons where Doesborgh's shop is said to be "by the Camerpoorte." This position, both inside and outside the gate, was the central one for the printers. Govaert Bac's "Vogelhuis" was "near the Camerpoorte," Henrik Eckert lived "Bi der Camerpoerten int huys van Delft," Lettersnider, who left Antwerp for Delf in 1500, lived in the Camerstraet, next door to the Golden Unicorn, where Liesveldt and afterwards Vorster-

¹ Arber, *Note*; Baedeker, *Belgium and Holland*, 1888, p. 329.

² *De Liggeren . . . der Antwerpsche Sint Lucasgilde, afgeschr. van P. Rombouts en T. van Lerijs*, part i., p. 69.

³ Arber, *Note*.

⁴ His profession as miniature-painter may possibly be connected with his extraordinary fondness for illustrating his productions with cuts.

⁵ Colophon to the *Cronike van Brabant* of 1497.

⁶ Campbell, *Annales*, No. 1785.

man lived, "buyten die cammerpoorte."¹ Doesborgh also in one book (the *Cronike van Brabant* of 1530) gives as his address, "op die Lombaerde Veste." That this is the same place as the other by the Camerpoorte is shewn by the colophon to the "Ouder Vader collatie," printed in 1506 by M. Hillenius "bi der Camer poorte op die Lombaerde veste."²

The type used by Doesborgh is the same in all his books except the "Os facies mentum," in which a Roman type is found.³ Not having seen a copy of this book, I can give no account of this type; but that which is used in all his other books is eminently undistinctive. With little variation it was used by (among others) Lettersnider and Dorpe at Antwerp, and by Eckert at Delf, during the fifteenth century; and by almost every Netherlands printer in the sixteenth, only usually in combination, and not as in Doesborgh's books exclusively. It is true that in the "Arnold's Chronicle" a smaller type appears; but that only helps to dissociate the book from our printer.

The use of so universal a type makes the attribution to him of books *sine nota* more than usually doubtful. The large letters occasionally used on titles are, I believe without exception, cut in wood; the "large Type" on the title of the "Os facies mentum" is probably from one of these blocks.

Of the twenty-four books which are to be assigned with more or less certainty to Doesborgh's Press, only five are dated, while seventeen bear the printer's name. Four of the five are between 1517 and 1520, and there is none before 1517⁴, although a considerable number of books must be assigned to an earlier period. Some assistance in arranging the undated books in a probable order is afforded by the devices used. There are five stages in the use of devices, which fall into an obvious order of sequence.

Device 1, which is found only in the "Fifteen Tokens," consists of the cut which was used by Dorpe as his mark. In its original state this cut represents the Knight Roland facing the right and winding his horn. From branches which arch overhead hang two shields, one on each side; that on the left bears the arms of Antwerp, that on the right bears an axe, as the printer's mark. Below a label bears his name "Van den dorpe."

¹ For Bac see the colophon to the *Herbarius* of 1511 in Vander Meersch (*Recherches*, etc. Gand, 1856) p. 126; for Eckert see Hain 12010; for Lettersnider and Liesveldt see Campbell, Nos. 1026 and 549a.

² See No. 3 of the J. Kockx sale catalogue (Anh. 1891).

³ This is not correct; see note at end.

As used by Doesborgh, in the "Fifteen Tokens," the name has been cut out of the label, and the axe from the righthand shield, not so completely, however, but that a vestige of both handle and blade is discernible.¹

Device 2, which is, like No. 1, found in only one book, first appears in the "Spiegel der volcomenheit" which was printed by Van den Dorpe's widow in 1501.² It differs from device 1 in being smaller, and less artistic: the label, which is blank, is in the upper part, and the shields, which have changed sides, rest on the ground. As used by Doesborgh, the axe is cut out of the left-hand shield.

Not long, as it would seem, after using this second device, Doesborgh adopted a motto of his own, which appears after the colophon to the "Nieuwer Werelt" as "e celo descendit v'bum quod gnothochyauton;" a curiously incorrect quotation from Juvenal. It is possible that this use of a motto was only a stopgap used while device No. 3 was being cut.

Device 3, which has never been reproduced in any collection of printers' marks, is of a remarkable character. It appears both in English and Dutch books, in the former mostly with the royal arms accompanying it. In a chamber with tiled floor a woman sits on a throne with two steps and a canopy. Over her head is her name "Auontuere," in her right hand she holds a sceptre, in her left the wheel of fortune. The left side of her face is masked, and a bandage covers her eyes. On her right a man labelled "gheluck" stands blowing a long horn-like instrument. On her left a similar man, "ongeluc" blows a smaller instrument of the same kind. Below is an inscription in Greek letters, which reads ΤΝΟΘΟΝΙΑΥΤΟΝ, in which may be recognised the "gnothochyauton" of the motto. The device seems to have met with an accident soon after being cut, for I know of only one book in which it is complete; in all other instances the side edges in the lower part, where the inscription is, are broken away, one side wholly, and one partially.

It next falls to speak of Doesborgh's connexion with Laurence Andrewe of Calais, who was in and after 1527 a printer and bookseller at London. The connexion is established by two books, the first of which is 'The wonderful shape and

¹ This device is figured in Holtrop's *Monuments*, pl. 111 [72].

² For this book, and the cut of the device, see *Vander Meersch*, p. 130.

nature of man, beastes . . . ,’ a compilation, translated at Antwerp by Andrewe to be printed by ‘Iohnes doesborowe booke printer,’ and ‘never before in no maternall langage prentyd tyl now.’ There is no date to this book, but as the Dutch version of it was printed in 1520, it must be a year or two before that time.

The second book is the ‘The Valuation of gold and silver, printed in the city of Antwerp for Laurence Andrewe,’ cited by Herbert (*Typographical Antiquities*, p. 412).

Herbert and Berjeau¹ consider that the connexion between Doesborgh and Andrewe was that of master and apprentice. The most that can be said for this theory is that it is possible. But in the books printed by Andrewe himself later, there is no trace of Doesborgh’s influence or methods, but on the contrary, a close approximation to those of English Printers, such as Treveris or Rastell. The wording of the reference in the ‘Wonderful Shape,’ does not necessarily imply the dependence of Andrewe.

We know that this book was translated by Andrewe, but who were responsible for the other English books of this press? We know from the edition by Wyer, of ‘The foure Tokens,’ which is in the British Museum, that Doesborgh himself was the translator: ‘translated out of Duche into Englysshe by John Dousbrugh.’ We may, therefore, assume that the whole of the book known as ‘The fifteen Tokens,’ of which the ‘Four Tokens’ are the first part, is due to Doesborgh also. But the ‘Fifteen Tokens’ itself is a version from the French, as stated in the book.² Of the other books little can be said. The ‘New Lands,’ as is pointed out by Prof. Arber, is the work of a Dutchman with a very imperfect knowledge of English, but this is not true of all the books. Douce, in a MS. note prefixed to the ‘Parson of Kalenborowe,’ asserts very positively that, in all probability, Richard Arnold was the translator of most of them: but this appears to be merely conjecture.

The last book printed with a date by Doesborgh is the ‘Cronike van Brabant’ of June, 1530: it was printed for, and to be sold by, Mich. Hillenius, who was, as we have seen before, a neighbour of the printer. After this there is no certain

¹ *Bibliophile illustré*, No. 1 (Août, 1861, p. 5).

² It is a translation of a portion of the Second Part of ‘L’art de bien mourir.’

knowledge concerning Doesborgh. It is possible that he may have removed to Utrecht, as the name of Jan van Doesborch appears as an Utrecht printer or bookseller about the year 1540.¹

It will be seen that we know very little of our printer's life between the bounding dates of 1508 and 1530 or 1540, and nothing outside those dates. Even his books only give us four consecutive years, 1517 to 1520, and one isolated date of 1530, as certain points. No doubt in time much more will be learnt respecting him and his contemporaries, many of whom are, to a still greater extent, mere names to us at present.

In the following list I have attempted an approximately chronological order; but it must be understood that often there is very little to go upon for giving one period rather than another.

1. (c. 1508 ?) Fifteen Tokens. With name. Quarto
Device 1. *British Museum, Bodleian (both imperfect)*
2. (c. 1508 ?) Van pape Jans Landendes. With name
Quarto. Device 2. *British Museum.*
3. (c. 1510 ?) Die distructie van Troyen (Guido Colonna).
Folio. With name. *Hain, 5524-*
4. (1510.) Almanack for 1510, by Jaspar Laet. Broadside.
No name. *Lambeth (3 copies).*
5. (c. 1510 ?) Robin Hood. No name. Quarto.
Edinburgh: Advocates' Library.
6. (c. 1510 ?) Euryalus and Lucretia (Aeneas Sylvius). A
fragment. *Edinburgh: Signet Library.*
7. (c. 1510 ?) Van der Nieuwer Werelt. Quarto. With
name and motto. *Providence, U.S.A.*
8. (c. 1512 ?) Accidence (perhaps by John Stanbridge).
Quarto. With name and device 3, whole. A frag-
ment. *C. C. C. Oxford.*
9. (c. 1515 ?) Accidence (an abridgment of the above).
Quarto, with name. *Bodleian.*
10. (c. 1515 ?) Of the neue landes. Quarto, with name and
device 3, broken. *Br. Mus.; Bodleian (2 leaves).*
11. (1516) Prognostication for 1516, by Jaspar Laet. Quarto.
Br. Mus. (one leaf only).

¹ Ledeboer, *Lijst der boekdrukkers . . . in Noord-Nederland*, Utrecht, 1876; p. 46.

12. 1517, May, 31. Den oorspronck onser salicheyt. Folio,
with name and date. Device 3, broken.
Br. Mus. ; The Hague.
13. 1517. Causes . . . for a journey against the Turks.
Quarto? No name? *West Catalogue*, 1773, No. 1851.
14. (After Jan. 1517) Letter of Barthol. de Clereville, etc.
Quarto, with name. *Bodleian.*
15. 1518. Cronike van Brabant, with name and date. Folio.
The Hague.
16. 1518. The merchant's wife (Frederyke of Jennen).
Quarto, with name, date, and device [3] *Britwell.*
17. (c. 1518?) The wonderful shape and nature of man, etc.
Folio, with name. *Cambridge Univ. Lib. [imperfect].*
18. 1520, May, 5. Den dieren Palleys. Folio, with name,
date, and device 3, broken. *British Museum (2 copies).*
19. (c. 1520?) The lyfe of Virgilius. Quarto, with name and
device 3, broken. *Bodleian [imperfect], Britwell.*
20. (c. 1520?) Virgilius, van sijn leven . . . Quarto. No
name or date. *British Museum.*
21. (c. 1520?) Mary of Nemmegen. Quarto, with name and
device [3]. *Britwell.*
22. 1530, June. Cronike van Brabant. Folio, with name and
date. *British Museum ; The Hague.*
23. (After 1530?) The parson of Kalenborowe. Quarto.
Bodleian [imperfect].
24. (n.d.). Os facies mentum, Lat.-Eng. Quarto, with name.
Huth ; Britwell.
25. (n.d.) The valuation of gold and silver. Antwerp, for
L. Andrewe. *Herbert, p. 412.*

DVBIA.

26. Arnold's Chronicle [1503 ?]. Folio, no name or place.
British Museum, &c.
27. A quarto abridged edition of the same. *British Museum.*
(one leaf only.)
28. Cronike van Brabant, 1512. Folio, no name. [By H.
Eckert?] *British Museum.*
29. Prognostication in Dutch by Jasper Laet for 1514. Quarto.
[By Jan van Ghelen ?] *Catal. feu P. Kockx, Anvers*
1892, No. 673.

30. The valuation of gold and silver. (Herbert p. 1529).
Octavo, no name, place or date. *British Museum.*
31. A book on the Pestilence. *Maurice Johnson, Esq.*

I shall be exceeding grateful for any information respecting the printer or his books, whether those in the above list or others, many of which probably exist, entire or in fragments.¹

ROBERT G. C. PROCTOR.

10, *S. Margaret's Road, Oxford.*

ADDENDA.

Note 1 (to No. 24). The small type of this book is not Roman, but small Gothic, similar to that used by Worde in the "Ortus vocabulorum." The date is about 1517.

Note 2. Many of the dates given and statements made above need modification. A book in the British Museum, "Die reyse van Lissebone," has the printer's name and device 3 unbroken, with the date 1508, that is, nine years earlier than any other dated book.

Note 3. The state of the cuts in No. 17 (above), shows it to be later in date than No. 18.

¹ A friend points out to us that there is a fragment (sheet K) of an edition of *Owlglass* attributed to Doesborgh in the catalogue of the British Museum. (C. 34, f. 31).—ED.

Children in the Library.

'Mid the lawns of Pennsylvania,
In the Indian summer blue,
Stood a hall of classic learning,
Lined with books of every hue.

Quaker greys were ranked with scarlets
Round the Gothic lights, and then
Busts of Pallas and Apollo
Looked on Whittier, Fox, and Penn.

Came a troop of merry children
O'er the grass and through the trees :
In the library they sported,
'Neath the bust of Socrates.

Oh, I know he was impatient
Of captivity up there,
For he longed to stroke their foreheads,
Ask them, Whither ? Whence ? and Where ?

Now behold them gaily frolic
'Mid the gallery's mouldering books :
Every dusky tome they smile on
Bright and interesting looks.

Harold opens out a record
Of the caves of mother earth :
In his mind are records older—
Deeper caves, of purer birth.

When I fail to read the symbols
Written on a tablet high,
Ethel mounts a chair to read them ;
She is nearer such than I.

When I hold the lighted taper,
Beatrice must hold it too :
She can light up dark old places
Better far than I can do.

So we move into the moonlight,
Underneath the evening star
Setting in the rosy glory,
Where the souls of children are.

ALBERT J. EDMUNDS.

Women Librarians.*

"I hold a man a debtor to his profession from the which as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves by way of amends to be a help and ornament thereto."—BACON, *Maxims of the Law*.

OWING to existing economic conditions a large number of women have now to enter the lists as workers; whether or no this is a matter for regret is an open question, the ethics of which we will pass over for the present. Certain it is that if women come forward as candidates for posts hitherto associated only with men, they must be prepared to stand on the same footing, and not imagine that they can do the pleasant work and leave that which is distasteful to others.

There is a tendency to generalise about "women's work" which has led and is leading to most erroneous ideas as to careers open to women; this cannot be too greatly deplored as much disappointment is necessarily caused by incautious statements.

One or two articles have already been written on the subject of this paper, treating of the matter as a "new career for women," whereas it is not a new career in reality, but a fresh aspect of an old one; for women were employed in libraries long before the era of the People's Palace, therefore the credit of the idea cannot be said to belong entirely to Mr. Walter Besant, who is generally supposed to have originated it by appointing women as managing librarians at the Peoples' Palace Library, which was opened in 1887.

There can be no doubt that women are in every way as well fitted for such posts as men, although they have hitherto laboured under the great disadvantage of having no regular business training, which is essential to the adequate fulfilment of the duties required.

There are one hundred and one little business details of which most women are kept lamentably ignorant, until chance necessitates their entering into office life or taking up some branch work; and even then the knowledge acquired is but one-

* A Paper read before the Library Association, Paris, Sept., 1892.

sided, and attained by sad experience: not that business details are difficult to master, but simply because they are so mechanically easy that no one takes the trouble to explain technicalities which present no difficulty to the majority.

If every woman were given at least the elements of a business training there would be fewer cases of financial extravagance, and better management would result.

The advantage of a knowledge of business for women has been perceived by our French neighbours, for nearly every woman whose husband is in business is a partner in the concern, and is consulted on various matters relating to the firm with the most satisfactory results, whereas in England our sisters are kept totally ignorant of any business matters, and very often do not in the least realise the nature of the occupations followed daily by their husbands and brothers; in consequence very few women in England are capable of managing or carrying on a business entirely alone as is done with such *éclat* by many French widows.

It is useless for any woman to imagine that she can take up the work of a librarian without some previous training, added to a knowledge of literature of all kinds and a fondness for books.

The idea of a librarian as caretaker is happily becoming extinct, and it is expected of every librarian nowadays, and rightly so, that he or she should at least know something of the books they issue, and the best ways of classifying and cataloguing them; in fact library economy is about to become an exact science, and no one who wishes to take up the duties of a librarian must imagine for one moment that all they have to do will be to give out books and sit and read them all day long, though even now one hears the remark "it must be so nice to be a librarian you must have such a lot of time for reading."

If you want to be of any use the *greater* part of your reading must have been done before you enter into the duties of such a post, and also remember that you must not rest on your oars here, for knowledge like a brass knocker is apt to become tarnished unless constantly polished up, and albeit it is sometimes a hard struggle to find time for this necessary reading, the literature of the day must not be forgotten.

To be a librarian one cannot form too high an ideal of the work required, one cannot [though there is a saying "the librarian who reads is lost"] read too much to keep abreast of

the times, and become the walking encyclopædia [popular edition] that one is expected to be, one cannot have too much patience or tact, and above all the more one knows, the more one must of necessity realise how much there is yet to learn.

Perhaps it would be as well to state a few of the duties of a librarian, one of the first is to draw up a list or lists of books required in different departments of literature, to be submitted to the committee, and the best way to set about this is to consult catalogues of the leading London and Provincial Libraries taking into special consideration the probable needs of your particular district as to technical and scientific works, etc., and not only this, but the list must be made in proportion to the income or sum to be spent in stocking the library so that this work needs a degree of nicety.

These lists are constantly being drawn up to include the most recently published books on various subjects, and it must be remembered that for a Public Library nothing but the best works and standard fiction should be purchased.

Works of ephemeral interest should have no place in a library whose income is naturally limited, for it is impossible to cater for all *à la* Mudie, and nothing that has not been tested should be placed on the shelves, any more than one would purchase a sword that had not been tested and found reliable.

Next, these books must be bought in the best and cheapest market, and here the value of a business training comes in ; also, one of the drawbacks to the employment of women, for men can at present attend sales and auctions with greater success, because with greater experience, than women.

After this, the books have to be unpacked, checked, cut, stamped and entered in the stock-book, and last and most important, the catalogue has to be compiled.

This must be arranged in the best way for the needs of the readers ; nearly every library has a different method, though the principle that underlies them is the same. It must be cheap and good, and, if possible, part of the cost should be defrayed by judicious advertisement ; the expense of printing is considerably lessened by typewriting the slips, only one proof, as a rule, being necessary where this is done.

Here again comes in a drawback to the employment of women. How many, I wonder, know anything of the wily ways of the advertisement contractor, or of the many and varied founts of type from which they shall make selection, though, perhaps,

most would know how to correct a proof sheet? Rare books will not often come into the hands of the public librarian, but the keeper of the books should be able to distinguish an Aldine, a Pickering or an Elzevir when seen, and also be able to size books correctly. It is to be hoped that the long looked for Standard Size Notation will soon be adopted, and also a system of exchanging duplicates.

Perhaps it will be found desirable to have a Card Catalogue, as well as a printed one, and to understand the construction of these, visits should be made to libraries where they are in use; indeed, I cannot too forcibly insist on the value of periodical visits to other libraries, no matter in what district, or place, not only to obtain knowledge of the doings therein, but also to encourage and keep up the feeling of brotherhood which ought to exist between the members of such a profession, especially if they also belong to the Library Association.

Personally, whenever I have a holiday, I always visit the library of the place I go to; this may seem rather a shabby statement, but no opportunity should be lost of forming ideas from the work of others; and one is never too old to learn, thanks to a merciful, though somewhat painful, dispensation of Providence.

There are certain works which every aspiring librarian ought to possess, and these are, Greenwood's *Public Libraries*, 4th edition, Cutter's *Cataloguing Rules*, Dewey's *System of Classification*, the *L. A. U. K. Yearbook* and *Series of Handbooks*, as well as other books bearing on the subject.

The *Yearbook* contains information concerning the excellent examination held by the L. A. U. K., to enter for which is a capital training, from an elementary point of view; although, of course, technical knowledge can only be obtained by practical work as an assistant, under some able librarian. It also contains the *Cataloguing Rules* and other useful information.

Amongst other duties are those of keeping the library accounts, making up reports, answering letters, and numerous other secretarial functions.

The librarian should always be accessible: and should realise that her position, to be prosaic, much resembles that of the sign post at the four cross country roads; the great thing in all guidance is to be clear, direct, and comprehensive, and the librarian's relation to her readers should be that of the proverbial "friend in need."

Besides all this, a librarian must know something of the art of binding and repairing books, attending to small repairs in the library, which work should be peculiarly suited to women's fingers. Many libraries have their binding done by contract; and I think it is a mistake to suppose much saving is effected by binding on the premises. Added to this, a librarian must possess a knowledge of periodical literature and newspapers, as to who edits and publishes them, at what prices they are sold, and what days they are issued.

The time-table and discipline of the staff must also be considered; and no one should expect duties to be performed by others that she could not, if necessary, perform herself, and here comes in the great advantage of gradual promotion from assistantship to the post of head librarian, by which time every detail of the work should have been mastered.

The matter of training is of great moment; unfortunately we have no Library School, such as our American cousins have established; and the poor salaries offered to assistants, combined with the long hours required, naturally deter many well educated persons from entering as candidates. This is especially so in the case of women, who are, as a rule, employed in discharging the most mechanical duties connected with the Lending Department, and who, in consequence, get but little insight into the higher branches of the work.

Perhaps later on, some means can be devised by which women can be trained efficiently by correspondence, or coaching in special subjects, in various libraries. This, however, is a matter for mature consideration, as, at present, there are too many applicants for the posts. Until such time as a system of training be worked out, one of the best ways to prepare for a possible berth, is to read up all matter connected with libraries, and to enter for the L. A. U. K. Examinations, reading the course advised by that body; also, the organs of the L. A. U. K. and A. L. A., as well as the important articles in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* on Typography, Printing, Libraries, and Bibliography.

As before said, a great deal of useful and technical knowledge may be picked up by visiting public libraries, examining application forms, rules, catalogues and other details, all of which can be done without troubling the librarian; and, if a question be necessary, it will generally be found that an assistant can answer it quite satisfactorily.

The librarian has gorgeous opportunities, and her work can never be really finished. I say this thus emphatically, as I fear some of the articles written on the subject would lead readers to suppose that library work is a pleasant sort of way of obtaining an occupation combined with a certain amount of pocket or "dress" money, and there are too many women already in the ranks who work for "filthy lucre" only, so that they may increase their allowance or income, regardless of the honour and dignity of work as work.

Members of this class abound and for the most part live at home, so that they are able to accept salaries on which other women having to support themselves entirely would simply starve, and this is one of the deep-seated causes of the miserable pay offered to women. Salaries are of course an interesting question as the labourer should be worthy of his or her hire. I do not think that any woman ever received more than £100 per annum, this being probably the maximum, and I should say that from £40 to £80 would be much nearer the mark. Greenwood says from 12s. to 22s. per week; indeed some men receive less though perhaps where this is the case the librarian lives rent free on the premises.

It has been said that the work of a library is light, but let no one run off with this idea. It is interesting, delightful, absorbing, but it cannot be called light if performed with any degree of thoroughness, and it must be remembered that the work is what the worker makes it to a certain extent. We must not forget that it yet remains for us to prove ourselves capable of fulfilling such responsible posts in the eyes of our brother librarians, who at present I fear look upon us with some degree of suspicion. In America they manage these things differently and there are quite as many women as men employed as librarians, and, at the meetings of the A.L.A., there are often more women present than men. So I was told by an American lady librarian, only last year, whereas ladies at the Annual meeting of the L.A.U.K. are at present in a hopeless minority.

It is expedient to take into consideration opinions of the Press and of various librarians as to the employment of women in libraries.

The Pall Mall Gazette says, of the engaging of women as assistants at Battersea in 1890, "Few even of the most determined opponents of the employment of women in public institutions can object to this new departure" which it goes on to say it believes to be the first of the kind in London! and here are a

few statements made by librarians at St. Helens, March 1890, when a paper was read by Miss Richardson.

Mr. Lancaster (St. Helens) said "he had considerable experience of male and female assistants, and found girls very attentive and obliging."

Mr. Sutton (Manchester) said "he thought that ladies were an acquisition in any library and did their work well."

Mr. Hand (Oldham) thought "that female labour had a tendency to keep down wages, but he thought that women did the work as well as men and ought to receive the same pay."

Alderman Thomas Baker said "he believed the plan was first tried in Manchester and was found successful."

Mr. Greenwood says "there is no doubt that ladies (how much better it would be if we used the good old word 'women,' which is infinitely more dignified) make very efficient assistants and their services are being more generally sought."

Mr. Inkster (Battersea) says "his assistants show an aptitude and liking for the work which augur well for their future as librarians. (Note this, Mr. Inkster is the only librarian who realises the possibility of a future for women in this so-called new field).

Mr. Brown, of Clerkenwell, employs women and continues to do so, a fact which speaks for itself.

A correspondent writing to the *Spectator*, May, 1890, advocates the cause of women, urging that they can hold their own with men as regards the necessary attainments.

Objections have been made as to physical unfitness of women for the work, and I have heard it said that women expect to be waited on too much and think they must not be asked to do anything they consider menial work; but I am quite sure that women really in earnest would no more think of giving themselves airs than they would of flying.

As to keeping order, personally I think that a word or look from a woman has more effect on a miscreant, than the forcible ejection or emphatic language a man might use under the same circumstances, and having had several years in an East End district I consider I am entitled to speak on this matter. Coercion is always to be avoided, as a confession of weakness; but, if force is really necessary, there is usually a man at hand to attend to such work, the necessity for which is rare.

Of course most librarians employ women merely as assistants and there are not many women in the position of Head, partly because so few posts are to be had, partly because women are

not yet prepared to take them, and *chiefly* because the best educated women will not accept the salary and social position in such a capacity.

Miss Stamp of Notting Hill was the first lady appointed in London, Miss Abbott of Hampstead, I think came next, then Miss Low and Miss Black of the People's Palace, and Miss Easty and Miss Jervois of the Goldsmiths' Institute, New Cross; but in the provinces there are one or two women in leading positions, employing other women as assistants.

Richard le Gallienne, one of the most graceful writers of the present day, treats of the subject in a poetically dilettante way, he says "books of all things should be tended by reverent hands (what would he say to the thumb mark of Lord Rosebery's artisan?) they should be given out as a priest dispenses the sacrament, and the next step to this ideal ministry is to have them issued by women."

So we see that although there is no very great cordiality extended to women wishing to become librarians, yet there are no insurmountable objections to their employment as such.

Mr. MacAlister has proposed a Library Bureau, which would be a kind of Librarian's Elysium, and Mr. Brown of Clerkenwell is even now forming the nucleus of a Library Museum which ought to be of immense help to the library student.

The exhibition of library appliances and catalogues at Nottingham last year was of great use to those who had the privilege of seeing it.

We ought to make public any little library "dodges" we may have, for the old days of keeping inventions to oneself are over: "Nous avons changé tout cela."

To conclude, had I to begin all over again I should certainly do everything I have suggested in this paper. Everyone knows that the best art students are those who have gone through the whole course from its most elementary stages, and it is of no use taking up any work unless you can throw yourself into it; as Shakespeare says

"No profit grows where is no pleasure ta'en
In brief Sir, study what you most affect."

M. S. R. J.

NOTE.—We trust the publication of Miss James' admirable paper will produce abundance of evidence to satisfy the author and those who think with her that the only hindrance to the increase of women librarians is the absence of trained candidates. Miss James is surely mistaken in referring to Mr. Inkster as the only librarian who "realises the possibility" of women as head librarians. If women will qualify themselves on the excellent lines laid down in this paper, committees will only be too glad to meet them.—THE EDITOR.

Carlyle's Lectures on Literature: a Note respecting the various Manuscripts.

THE issue of two editions of a hitherto unpublished series of Lectures by Thomas Carlyle, within a few weeks of each other, affords a suitable opportunity for placing on record several curious circumstances in the history of the manuscript, which have chanced to come within my own experience, and may serve as notes towards the bibliography of this long dormant work. About four-and-twenty years ago, a provincial bookseller was offered (by a clergyman living in Ireland) the manuscript of an unpublished series of lectures by Thomas Carlyle, and having come to terms with his correspondent, obtained it. On its arrival, it proved to be a report of eleven out of twelve of the series of lectures on the History of Literature, delivered by Carlyle in 1838, the ninth lecture of the series being unaccountably missing.

His first thought was to offer them to Carlyle's publishers Messrs. Chapman and Hall, but he received no encouragement from them—they replied, in fact, that no doubt Mr. Carlyle had a transcript of them, and that they did not care about the MS.—they would give five pounds or so for it, to keep it out of other hands, beyond that they were not prepared to treat.

Under the circumstances, the bookseller, after warily obtaining a copy of the MS. to keep by him, catalogued and sold the original. Two or three days afterwards, during his absence at a sale, another order came in for the "Lectures," and an assistant (now a prominent bookseller in one of the great provincial centres,) unwittingly sold the second copy. Thus ended the history of the unpublished "Carlyle" for some years. Several years afterwards, however, the bookseller told the story of the two Carlyle manuscripts to the present writer, and, singular to relate, on the very next day a letter was received from the purchaser of one of the MSS., asking the bookseller to take it back and allow for it as much as he thought

fit. This he very gladly agreed to do, and when the MS. arrived, it proved to be the copy which the bookseller had made himself, which his former assistant had sold in his absence. This time the bookseller determined that he would not allow the lectures to go out of his possession. He, therefore, caused another copy to be made of the MS., which soon found a purchaser, the bookseller retaining the earlier copy for himself. This occurred in 1873, and the duplicate copy remained in the hands of the bookseller until after Carlyle's death, when its owner, thinking an opportune time had arrived for the profitable disposal of the third copy of the "Lectures," (or rather the *second* in point of time) catalogued it, and very speedily found a purchaser in the person of an eminent literary man, who shortly afterwards contributed an outline of the series of Lectures to the *Nineteenth Century*.

More than ten years elapsed before any further step was taken to make the lectures more widely known. In February of the present year, however, they were "now printed for the first time," with a preface and notes by Professor J. Reay Greene, and published by Messrs. Ellis and Elvey. The editor, in the preface, stated that at the time the lectures were delivered, "full reports . . . were taken by the late Mr. Thomas Chisholm Anstey, Barrister-at-law, and subsequently Member of Parliament for Youghal." He further says: "Mr. Anstey had copies of these reports made by a few friends. Three such copies are known to exist. One, the property of the publishers, has been compared with a second copy kindly placed at their disposal by Professor Dowden. . . . The two MS., although the work of different hands, give concordant readings throughout. The original MS. in Mr. Anstey's handwriting is now the property of the Asiatic Society, Bombay, who acquired it at his death." It appeared that from some cause Mr. Anstey had been unable to attend the ninth lecture of the course, hence its omission from the manuscripts referred to, which doubtless owed their existence, in the first instance, to one of the transcripts of Mr. Anstey's report.

Two or three weeks after Professor Greene's edition appeared, another edition of the lectures, agreeing with its predecessor in its omission of the ninth lecture, was published by Messrs. Curwen, Kane & Co., at Bombay, and at the *Times of India* Office in London, having an introduction and notes by R. P. Karkaria, and purporting to have been printed from

Anstey's original MS. The second editor, in his preface, refers to Professor Reay Greene's edition as "a blundering one, omitting some words to be found in the Anstey MS.," and declares that "its readings are distinctly inferior to the latter."

In the hope of throwing some light on the existence of these "blundering and inferior copies" (if such they are), I have penned this note, which may interest some readers of the LIBRARY, as a contribution to the history and adventures of one of the works of Carlyle which remained in its manuscript dress for upwards of half-a-century. I do not doubt that both the copies used in the preparation of Professor Reay Greene's edition of the lectures were due to the enterprise of my bookselling friend in making a Carlyle manuscript go as far—and bring as much grist to the mill—as possible.

R. CADE.



The Bibliography of Bookbinding and Binding Patents.

I AM aware that specifications of patents are not usually regarded as books, and therefore do not find their way into bibliographies. There is however something to be said in their behalf, and they may be viewed as tracts dealing with a particular branch of the subject to which they relate.

The number of patents for bookbinding is not large, and as most of the improvements have reference to purely mechanical processes, they are generally not worth the attention of the lovers of the art. I do not suggest that Miss Prideaux should encumber her valuable list (*see ante*, pp. 15, 50, 90), with references to machines for sewing books with wire, the use of which is an abomination to all persons of a rightly-constituted and well-balanced mind. Nor do I look upon Hancock's patent for india-rubber binding as one which need be taken notice of by a serious person. In the early part of this century a Birmingham japanner, one Benjamin Cook, took out a patent for iron binding (japanned of course) the advantage of which was that a book so bound would not easily burn!

There is however one patent for bookbinding to which attention may be drawn, and that is James Edwards' patent (No. 1462, A.D. 1785). Edwards was a well-known publisher and bookseller and was a son of Edwards of Halifax, the inventor or at all events the introducer of painted book edges. James Edwards' improvements consisted in a mode of ornamenting the sides of parchment bound books. He takes a piece of very transparent parchment or vellum and prints or paints a design upon it. This is then pasted face downwards upon the side of the book (a piece of white paper having been previously placed underneath) so that the design shows through the parchment or vellum.

The process is not very important nor is it particularly effective, but I do not speak from a very wide experience, as I have only seen a single example, and that is a Baskerville Prayer Book which once belonged to Queen Charlotte, and

which is now in the British Museum. It has also a drawing on the fore-edge.

Mr. J. Toovey showed a vellum-bound Virgil at the Burlington Club Exhibition last year (No. 18, case Q) which was probably ornamented according to Edwards' method, but I did not notice it particularly on the occasion of my visit.

I should be glad if your readers who possess books bound in painted vellum would examine them carefully and see whether the ornamentation is not on the back of the vellum. I have never seen any allusion to Edwards' patent in any work upon the subject.

There is a pretty full account of James Edwards in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, but his father, the bookbinder, does not appear.

R. B. P.

P.S.—Since the above was in type I have communicated with Mr. Toovey, of Piccadilly, who has been kind enough to examine seven or eight examples of Edwards' work in his father's collection. He informs me that in each case the drawing or painting is on the inner side of the vellum.



The Bibliographical Society.

A PRELIMINARY meeting of those interested in the formation of a Bibliographical Society was held on Friday, July 15th, at the offices of the Library Association, 20, Hanover Square. Mr. R. C. Christie, Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester, presided; and there were present among others, Lord Charles Bruce, Messrs. Copinger, Isambard Brunel, R. S. Faber, J. Y. W. MacAlister, A. W. Pollard, Talbot B. Reed, Charles Welch, and H. B. Wheatley. Mr. W. A. Copinger, the convener of the meeting, delivered the following address in support of the proposal to found the society:—

Since last year, when I read a paper on the necessity for the formation of a Bibliographical Society for this county before the Library Association at Nottingham, I have received many letters asking me to set the matter before the public, and promising support.

Now it will, I think, be agreed that during the last few years, no branch of literature has increased so rapidly in comparison with its development in former years as Bibliography. The product of the press increases so rapidly year by year that a knowledge of what has been written and issued on particular subjects becomes of greater and greater importance.

And the result of reading and education generally must be the appearance of bibliographers here and there; and most certainly a necessity for guides to literature—these, who from experience, can indicate the most desirable and advantageous paths to follow, and the many pitfalls to be avoided.

One work much needed, and which can only be effected by the united action of bibliographers in this county, is a general catalogue of English literature. This might well be undertaken by a Society on the principle of Dr. Murray's new English Dictionary—the basis being the printed catalogue of the British Museum. Probably within seven or eight years the new catalogue will have been completed, and what better basis than this could be desired?

Unless some steps be taken soon towards a general Bibliography, the time will pass by when the possibility of accom-

plishing it within reasonable limits will have gone. No man could now take such a work in hand and successfully accomplish it single handed; co-operation is absolutely necessary to achieve success. It is remarkable how far behind other countries we are in the matter of Bibliography—France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, and Spain being far ahead. There are, however, no doubt scores of Bibliographers in remote parts of this country working on their own lines—possibly several on the same subject, or studying the same press, who, drawn together by a Society such as that proposed, would be helpful one to another and far more useful than at present to the world of literature in general.

A centre of light is needed—many workers are now covering the same ground simply from want of knowledge of what is being done by others. There is consequently much wasted energy and labour practically lost. Again, a Society can command that which an individual might seek for in vain. It knows what to ask and where to obtain help when needed. It will, in fact, call forth workers from a field yet untouched.

The Society should have a broad basis—one which would include a *Dibdin* as well as a *Bradshaw*. There are no doubt several schools of Bibliography—but surely there is no reason why there should not be a bond of union amongst them. Their respective spheres of work might be met by the appointment of separate committees for the accumulation of material, work on special subjects and so forth. Incunabula, for instance, would have to be separately dealt with, and we might then well hope for a satisfactory supplement to Hain's Repertorium.

What is wanted is a union of those engaged in common labour—a society where those engaged in similar work, whatever lines they may be working upon, may meet together and exchange experience for experience.

The Bibliographical Society which is needed is, I consider, an inclusive rather than an exclusive society. It must not be allowed to degenerate into a dining club, nor be merely a printing and publishing society. More than this is wanted. It will be proposed that during the season the society shall meet at intervals for the reading of papers and the consideration and discussion of matters of Bibliographical interest, and that before such meetings—say half-an-hour or so—there be an exhibition amongst the members of rare and valuable works or curiosities in the book world, and so forth. Further, that the Society should issue from time to time bibliographies on special subjects.

I may mention that I have received numerous letters in favour of the formation of a Society, and have no doubt, when once in existence, it will be extensively supported throughout the county. As a matter of fact I have already received the names of over 70 gentlemen willing to join and support the society when formed.

Mr. Copinger concluded by moving the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. H. B. Wheatley, and supported by Mr. T. B. Reed, the chairman, Mr. J. Leighton, Mr. Welch, and other gentlemen present, and carried unanimously :—

That this meeting is of opinion that a society be established to be called "The Bibliographical Society," and that the objects of such society be (a) "The acquisition of information upon subjects connected with Bibliography."

(b) "The promotion and encouragement of Bibliographical studies and researches."

(c) "The printing and publishing of works connected with Bibliography."

It was moved by Mr. Reginald S. Faber, seconded and carried unanimously :—

That the amount of the annual subscription be £1 1s.

It was resolved on the motion of Mr. Talbot B. Reed,

That the following gentlemen constitute a provisional committee with power to form the society on the basis laid down in the foregoing resolutions, and to draw up rules to be submitted to the first meeting, (to be called as soon as convenient) of those who may give in their names as desirous of joining the society :—

Lord Charles Bruce.	Mr. Sidney Lee.
Mr. R. C. Christie.	" J. Y. W. MacAlister.
" W. A. Copinger.	" J. H. Slater.
" R. S. Faber.	" H. B. Wheatley.
Dr. Richard Garnett.	" Chas. Welch.
Mr. J. T. Gilbert.	

It was proposed by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wheatley, and resolved unanimously :—

That Mr. Talbot Baines Reed be appointed Hon. Secretary, *pro tem.*

A vote of thanks to the chairman, and to the Library Association for the use of their room, concluded the proceedings.

It is understood that a circular is about to be issued setting forth the aims of the new society, and inviting the names of members. The Hon. Sec. requests us to state that he will be pleased to receive any suggestions and reply to any communications addressed to him at 4, Fann Street, London, E.C. A general meeting of all who have intimated their desire to join the Society will be held in the autumn to adopt rules, elect officers, and inaugurate the work of the society.

A Librarian.

BY HIS ASSISTANT.

THIS is, if I mistake not, a new subject; at least, it is treated from a new standpoint. Comments on the Assistant have not been few, at our annual meetings, and in the pages of predeceased organs of the Association. But this is the first time that an Assistant has passed criticism, *coram populo*, on the doings of his master.

But if the title be uncanny, and carry with it suggestions of "Sir John Lubbock;" by an Ant, a Bee or a Wasp, it shall be the only thing unorthodox in this essay. From Chaucer downwards (in both senses) men have liked best to satirize the foibles of a class by creating and then criticizing a member of it. It is usual to set up a lay-figure, as it were, clothed with such weaknesses as are most frequent in the men it represents, and then to ride a-tilt at it. One so gets a living personality instead of an abstraction, and personalities, however dull their subject, are always interesting.

But I am wandering very far from my original purpose, which was to introduce to you Mr. Bookworm, a librarian whom his brother-craftsmen have not hitherto met. This is not altogether the fault of that distinguished librarian. Rather is it that you have been a little backward in recognising a form that has been amongst you for years; a form which, in some phases of character, is well known to my brother assistants. I have called Mr. Bookworm distinguished, and I do so advisedly. Not that he has ever told me so, but because he has so often implied it by the disparaging way in which he speaks of the other members of his profession.

Mr. Bookworm's strong point is theory. He is not only a stern uncompromising critic of the theories of others, but is himself "a gentleman of a good conceit," and full of plans for reforming all libraries—including his own. And this last is a condition rarely to be met with. It must be confessed that, so far as any of these theories have been put into practice, they have not been a success. Attendant circumstances generally ruined them.

There was that notion that books should only be catalogued once every eighteen months, since by so doing one saved space and shifting of slips in the catalogue, and moreover ensured greater accuracy by giving one's whole time to such work. The brilliant originality of that theory must strike every librarian. After six months, it took ten minutes to find any new book. And this, in spite of the fact that Mr. Bookworm's scheme of shelf-classification (of which I will speak later) declared that "all new books can be found at once, without reference to the catalogue."

At the end of the year the local press began to comment on the "singular inefficiency of the staff of the reading room," and the chief was at last induced to sacrifice his design for the good of his subordinates. The assistants catalogued our accessions (when we could find them), and the library once more returned to its unregenerate ways of working.

That failure made Mr. Bookworm a little angry, even though the press aforementioned congratulated him on having "so promptly grappled with the disorganisation to which we lately had occasion to refer." I do not mean that our chief was petulant. He was never that; but for some time, more in sorrow than in anger, he used to allude to that lack of support from those around which had ruined so many of the brightest measures of reform.

I have said that Mr. Bookworm was never petulant. If not by example, at least by precept, he strongly condemned the weakness of losing one's temper under any provocation. Bad temper is a luxury not permitted to the assistant. It has been justly held that he must endure the vagaries of readers and the peculiarly irritating remarks of self-constituted critics, as if he liked them and received them as a kind of perquisite. I remember once that a reader asked me about a dozen questions in an hour, borrowed a book of my own (returning it with apologies for having inked it), severely criticised the manners of one of the attendants, and finally abused me because I refused him access to certain shelves. I am afraid I lost my temper, and showed it. So that reader reported my conduct to Mr. Bookworm, and the librarian was very angry, and addressed me in scathing terms of reproof for the space of ten minutes. It occurred to me afterwards, that the great man himself had scarcely kept his temper during the interview. But then, there is a great difference between righteous anger and petulant retort, and yet another gulf between a reader and an assistant.

Yet might I put up a plea that librarians would not forget that we juniors are human. They can remember, most of them, the many times when a harassing question, an idle lounger, or an impertinent critic has severely tried their good nature. They may remember that the end of a long day is not a favourable time for a test of courtesy. Above all, may they remember these things when they learn from an aggrieved reader that the assistant has turned and rent him.

Like many other great men, Mr. Bookworm is very intolerant of ignorance. The "prentice hand" seldom enjoys life under his rule. It is not wise, when given something to do, to ask how it is to be done. An assistant will be told to initiate you, but you will fall many degrees in the librarian's estimation. *Sile et philosophus esto*; wait patiently and you will learn by degrees.

In this way the library may suffer, but your reputation will be saved.

But I would say here that a little indulgence, however weak-minded, to the young recruit, will not always be thrown away. We cannot be expected to spring all-wise, like Minerva, from the head of a public school.

There is no profession, the petty details of which are harder to grasp than ours. The jargon of books and cataloguing must be a mere shibboleth to the young beginner, and I cannot be too grateful for the mercy shown to my blunders when I was let loose on a library for the first time.

We have now amongst us a son of the reigning house, who tries the paternal heart with all the vagaries common to assistants, adding a few special varieties of his own invention. But his path has been smoother than that of the ordinary novice. "*In Rege tamen, Pater est*," and the chief tempers even the sternest rebuke with an excuse for the ignorance which caused it. A scurrilous print lately set up amongst us, called this a case of nepotism. But as the librarian pointed out, that was absurd, for, to begin with, it wasn't his nephew but his son. Mr. Bookworm has some classical attainments and delights to show his knowledge of derivations. Moreover, he says that he has no intention of keeping his son in the library. But he did not know quite what to do with him, and here at least he can come to no harm. On these terms, then, the youth draws fifty pounds a year and is happy.

As I have hinted, Mr. Bookworm has a great hobby. You will find it wise to take an interest in its capers; omit all but

friendly criticism of its points, and (if you are an assistant) take submissively whatever kicks that more or less intelligent animal may bestow on you.

Mr. Bookworm's present mount is a great scheme of classification to which the Dewey system is child's play.

He once issued invitations to the librarians of his district to hear a lecture thereon. Some accepted; some few (and these from libraries where the scheme or its expounder were known) stayed away. Then he went out into the highways and hedges and asked the assistants to come in. I must confess that his audience seemed rather bored and mystified. Yet the system, with all its points, must have been exceeding clear, for not one ever asked a question. But to this day the lecturer marvels that no single library has adopted that scheme.

For a long time, though the theory was perfect, the practice would not coincide with the old method of working the library. One of the two had to go—and the old method went. We are now about half-way through the reformation; chaos reigns, and it is the chief's great delight to be called in to have pointed out (as occurs about once a week) "a defect in the old system," which prevents the carrying out of the Great Millenium.

Just as old Procrustes made the captive fit his bed—if too short by stretching him, if too long by lopping him—so does Mr. Bookworm make his subject fit his scheme. It matters not that the old category has worked well since the beginning. If it does not fit the scheme, he will have none of it. It is either lopped or lengthened, and is turned out crippled and deformed, but at length in harmony with the great idea.

You have by this time discovered that Mr. Bookworm is a many-sided man. He is an energetic correspondent of *Notes and Queries*, and on many topics his word is law.

He is author of a work on Bibliography, which attracted some attention—more especially at the hands of a *Saturday Reviewer*, for whom our author is still looking. I think he must want to argue one or two points with him. The chief has his weaknesses, and love of revenge is one of them. He also compiled a catalogue; but that was years ago when he entered the profession and knew but little of the ways of the librarian. The work was greatly praised, and though rumour spoke of an assistant and a stranger who haunted the library for two years before the volume's appearance, and who were said to be cataloguing books—still, only the librarian's name appears on the title-page, so that rumour must be wrong again.

I suggested once that I should start a shelf-catalogue, and the librarian was very good about it and approved. So I worked for three months, and had gone some way when the work was brought up for inspection. And once more he was very good, and took a great deal of trouble. He proved in half-an-hour that there were more defects than there were entries; that no words would have been too bad for the principle, except that the practice was worse, and finally that shelf cataloguing was a delusion and a snare. But he thoughtfully showed that the three months had not been wasted. By altering all the headings we were able to use the slips for an off-shoot of his scheme of classification. The work was completed on these lines, and has been favourably noticed by the Press as "yet another instance of the intelligence and untiring zeal which Mr. Bookworm brings to the discharge of his duties."

Let no reader for a moment suppose that I sketch Mr. Bookworm as a type. It is dangerous always to create a species from a single instance.

Mr. Bookworm is unique, is proud of it, and it is as such that I have given him to the world. To speak still more plainly, the above instance is but the lay-figure already mentioned, endowed with all the weaknesses and none of the virtues of the men under whom we serve. Mr. Bookworm is merely an exception to the rule of generosity and long-suffering which is found in general among the ranks of the craft.



The Dictionary of National Biography.

THE editors of a work like this—"national" in every respect, save the support of a government subsidy, which in most other countries it would receive—have a right to demand that a periodical devoted to the interests of libraries should record, from time to time, its progress towards completion. Excepting the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, there is no other publication of the last half century that fills so important a place in a well equipped library. For most purposes many of its articles are of more practical value in a library than separate biographies—and the excellent bibliographies which are a special feature of this work have proved an invaluable boon to busy librarians.

The latest prospectus informs us that :—

"More than half the *Dictionary of National Biography* has now been published. Thirty volumes have appeared at quarterly intervals with unbroken punctuality, and the publishers are in a position to assure the subscribers that the remaining volumes will be issued with equal regularity. The aim of the editors and publishers has been to supply in the Dictionary full, accurate, and concise biographies of all noteworthy inhabitants of the British Islands and the Colonies (exclusive of living persons) from the earliest historical period to the present time, and it is the unanimously expressed opinion of the critics that this aim has been satisfactorily realised. The province of the Dictionary embraces all lives likely to interest students of history, philosophy, science, theology, literature, music, art, and the drama, and no name of real importance in these fields has, so far as the publishers are aware, been omitted. The principles on which names have been included have been generously interpreted. The epithet 'national' has not been held to exclude the early settlers in America, or natives of these islands who have gained distinction in foreign countries, or persons of foreign birth who have achieved eminence in this country. Place has been found for those who have attracted national attention as sportsmen or leaders of society, while criminals whose careers present features of permanent interest have been briefly noticed."

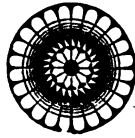
* * *

"Many of the memoirs of kings and queens, of great statesmen, generals, and admirals, embody information derived from State Papers and other authorities, which have only become accessible in very recent years. Thus the Dictionary often supplies in the case of distinguished names more detailed and exact biographies than any that have previously appeared. But it has been the particular endeavour of the editors to bestow as much, or even more, pains on names of less widely acknowledged importance."

* * *

"Ministers of all religious denominations, whose activity has rendered them remarkable, have received equal attention with the highest ecclesiastical dignitaries. Men of letters, of all ranks and ages, fill a large space in the Dictionary. The extant writings of mediæval scholars—printed and unprinted—are fully catalogued, and every effort has been made to make the bibliographical information, especially in the case of rare books, as useful as possible. Errors that have figured in older bibliographical manuals have been corrected, and many books that have been issued anonymously or pseudonymously have been associated for the first time with their authors' names. Memoirs have been inserted of all printers, booksellers, and book-collectors who have played an effective part in the history of literature. A list of the sources whence information has been derived is appended to every memoir."

A library committee, whose duty it is to provide a reference library, may proceed to complete their task with easy consciences when they have placed upon their shelves *The Encyclopædia Britannica* and *The Dictionary of National Biography*.



Free Public Libraries and Income Tax.

AS the law now stands, the public libraries have a distinct grievance with regard to income tax, because if a library building has been erected with money borrowed on the security of the rates, the one set of buildings can be made to pay under two schedules, A and D. In the case of "Aberdeen Commissioners of Supply v. Russell," it was decided that where a building has been erected for public purposes, the capital for the erection of which was borrowed on the security of the rates, the tax must be paid on the interest under schedule D, notwithstanding that the building has already been assessed to its full value, and the tax paid under schedule A. But if the security for the money had been a mortgage on the building, the tax would only be charged under one schedule.

It may be remembered that the library authorities of Cardiff took the matter in hand, and that the member for Cardiff, Sir E. J. Reed, asked a question in the House of Commons on the subject, in reply to which the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that a test case was pending to settle whether a public library was liable to income tax under schedule A. This case, "Andrews v. the Mayor of Bristol," has now been decided against the libraries. The Bristol authorities contended that a public library was a literary and scientific institution within the meaning of the "Literary and Scientific Institutions Act, 1842," and therefore exempt from income tax. The High Court has decided that public libraries are not exempt—so that wherever a public library has been erected with money borrowed under the Public Libraries Acts, double income tax must now be paid upon such buildings. For instance—in Cardiff the interest less redemption is about £400—which gives £10 as the income tax under schedule D, and a further assessment under schedule A places the annual value of the buildings at £400, and a claim is made for another £10, or £20 in all. We understand that the Cardiff authorities have now appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking for a temporary order exempting public libraries under schedule A, and that a bill has been drafted which will be introduced at the earliest possible moment with the object of making the exemption permanent.

The Plan of Suspended Iron Presses as a General System of Book Accommodation in Large Libraries.*

IN the interesting paper on the "Sliding-press of the British Museum" which appeared in the November number of *THE LIBRARY*, Dr. Garnett "suggests . . . regard being had to it" (the sliding-press) "in forming the plans of libraries hereafter to be built." In doing so, however, he does not seem to have advanced beyond the notion of applying the contrivance as an auxiliary to the present system of fixed presses. But if the idea is a good one as thus employed it is surely capable of being carried out in a more complete and systematic way in the planning of new library accommodation. If it is found a convenient working arrangement to have a double shelved hanging-press immediately in front of each side of a fixed book-case (thus bringing six ranges of shelves into contact with each other, the one covering up the other and having to be removed before that other can be got at) why should not all the presses in a library be brought into close proximity, side by side with each other, so that each one would require to be pulled out into an open space when access to its shelves is wanted? Of course in this arrangement the movement would be endwise, and not, as in the British Museum, front wise. This development of the plan of moveable suspended presses would probably be a more condensed method of shelving books than any at present in use and seems the only one which would combine capacity of packed storeage with wide passages.

The simplest form of a store-room of books constructed on this principle would be a building of any length, 22 feet wide and 35 feet high. Like the room of the British Museum described by Dr. Garnett, it would consist of three stories lighted entirely from the roof; the floors of the two upper flats being formed of iron gratings. At the height of about $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet from each floor a series of iron bars would cross from wall to wall at distances of 20 inches apart. Except as to the uppermost series these bars would serve two purposes—to bear the iron gratings above and carry the hanging-presses below. Every bar would have a steel rail attached to each side upon which the wheels of the presses

* Read before the Library Association, June 13th, 1892.

would run. One press would be suspended between every two bars, so that each press would be slightly under 20 inches broad and therefore could be shelved for two rows of books. To keep the press steady a narrow ridge would project from the bottom and run along a groove in the floor. In height the case would be about 8 feet, and in length about 6 feet 4 inches. According to this construction a range of books-cases, closely packed together, would hang down along each side wall with a centre space between of about 9 feet wide; so that when any press was pulled out its full length a passage would still be left of nearly 3 feet. But a press so drawn out would, of course, for the time block, at least, five presses—two in the same and three in the opposite range. A condition which renders the plan, when carried out in its completeness as above indicated, not well adapted for small libraries; or where frequent access to a number of adjacent presses might be simultaneously required.

On the basis of eight vols. to the foot of shelf run and ten inches and a-half between each shelf, every double shelved book-press would contain about 800 volumes; so that, altogether on the three floors, every twenty inches of the length of the room would accommodate some 4,800 vols. Thus a small building forty feet long, twenty-two feet wide and thirty-five feet high would (after providing for stairs) have a storage capacity of over 100,000 vols.

The following would appear to be some of the advantages to be gained by this scheme.

The shelving of a large number of volumes in a comparatively small space.

The adaptability of the plan to the rate of book expansion. It may be commenced by the erection of such cases only as are immediately required, additional presses being inserted only when needed. So long as the distances between were sufficient it would not be necessary to move the presses, as access could be got to the shelves in the usual way.

Abundance of air and light would be easily provided in the wide passage which must be left between the two rows of cases.

From the close position of the presses some considerable freedom from dust may reasonably be expected to result: and from the exclusion of light the bindings would remain longer fresh and the edges of the leaves would perhaps escape the brown tinge which so frequently discolours not a few volumes.

JAMES LYMBURN.

The Municipal Libraries of Paris.

Les Bibliothèques Municipales de Paris : Bibliothèques de Lecture et de Dessin. Lecture, Consultation sur place et Prêt à domicile d'Ouvrages littéraires et scientifiques, de Partitions de musique et de Documents (Estampes, Photographies et Dessins) concernant l'Art industriel.

[Presented to the Members of the Library Association by the Minister of Public Instruction and Fine Arts ; and translated by Mr. Archibald Clarke.]

I. MUNICIPAL REFERENCE AND LENDING LIBRARIES.

THE municipal libraries of the City of Paris supply a need very different to that which has given birth to the rich and precious treasures contained in the National Library, the Arsenal, the Mazarine, and other institutions. The end to be attained, and which is now realized in a very flourishing system, was to put within the reach of all—and especially within the reach of the destitute, the poor and the ignorant—rudiments of instruction and study, and to furnish the toiler, in his leisure moments, with a healthy pastime and means of information.

With a view to the moral elevation of the people as well as their education, the municipal library opens its doors and distributes its books free of cost to all who struggle to fill up the gaps left by an incomplete education or who are seeking an intelligent diversion for their hours of relaxation. To the former it acts as a second school, while it provides the latter with innocent occupation and thus protects them from coarse and harmful amusements, on which the town artizan is only too tempted to squander his time, his money and his health.

It was only in 1878 that the work of these institutions was begun in good earnest, and commenced to render really valuable services. At that time there were nine of them, and of these, five only were slightly resorted to by the public. The remainder were contented with a bare existence. Besides they only admitted, as a general rule, readers in the building itself, with the exception of two, which lent out books for home reading on conditions of a very restrictive nature.

To-day the popular municipal libraries of Paris number sixty-four, all of which lend books for home reading. In the loan of books consists the most useful part of the service, even in the libraries where the dimensions of the premises permit also of the accommodation of readers.

The scheme which has long been adopted by the administration provides ultimately for the establishment of a library in each of the eighty wards of Paris, and every year progress is made towards its realization.

The hours of opening these institutions make it easy for workmen to resort to them, since they coincide with the hours at which the larger number of factories and shops are closed, and the privilege of taking books home more than doubles the importance of the services rendered, as the borrower is not only permitted to choose his hour and take his time for reading, but to give his whole household a share in his study or amusement.

There is a library in each of the twenty Mairies, and in many of the Communal schools.

All the libraries are dependent upon a central service connected with the office of the Prefect of the Department of the Seine and charged with their support and administration ; but they are, in addition, in each district, placed under the care of a committee appointed by the mayoralty and presided over by the mayor, to whom is entrusted the duty of selecting and noting books for acquisition.

As the municipal libraries are absolutely free, the expense falls entirely upon the City, and a charge for their support is included in each Communal Budget.

To fulfil the work of public education and moral training the library of the people has no need of rare books or of *éditions de luxe*. Destined to pass from hand to hand among the masses, the works which it brings together must be inexpensive and of a kind that can be easily replaced, with the exception of course of volumes set aside for reference ; these latter, consulted

as they are under the eye of the librarian, run no risk of being spoilt or going astray. There is no objection therefore to the acquisition of valuable books of reference, not bibliographical rarities, but costly encyclopædias and scientific publications, which, from their very nature, are unlikely to be issued in cheap form.

But the kind of reading just alluded to, although perhaps it renders weightier and more important services from an educational standpoint, is not that which best suits the majority of the public. What the Parisian artisan, the usual frequenter of municipal libraries, values over and above all is reading at home.

The rule of buying only cheap books for home-reading was, however, most worthily set aside on the day when the Administration did not hesitate to add scores of music to the works of general literature and popularised science, which formed the basis of the libraries. Risky as the experiment might seem to be, the results have been such, that actually all the municipal libraries, without exception, now lend out music.

Certainly all necessary precautions are taken, as well for the preservation of the volumes, as for the security of the lending of them; the bindings, very strong ones, are stamped on the side with a steel die, bearing the name of the library; a stamp is also imprinted on a certain number of the leaves, so, too, on each of the engravings, figures, and vignettes of the illustrated volumes.

But it is worthy of note that it is far less to prudential measures than to the good sense and good feeling of the Parisian public that are owing the excellent results given by a system, the first application of which was not set on foot without causing some amount of anxiety to the Administration. With a yearly circulation of almost a million-and-a-half volumes, the sum total of the yearly losses scarcely reaches a mean of four per cent., and even this must, for the most part, be attributed to carelessness, very rarely to evil disposition or theft.

In 1890, the large total of 1,386,642 was read. This total affords a remarkable comparison with the results obtained during the first years of the operation of the system.

In 1878, the nine libraries then in existence gave a total of 23,339 perusals. In 1879, the libraries were eleven in number, and established on a definite system. Thus strengthened they lent 57,840 volumes, and henceforward, from year to year, the

advance is a marked one ; the average number of issues, which in 1878 was 3,259 per library, was raised in 1890 to 23,500 (this in round numbers, as three libraries had been opened to the public in just the closing days of the year).

Thus the effect of the successive establishment of new libraries has not only asserted the usefulness of libraries already existing, but has increased in proportion the number of readers ; and the figures prove, in a manner both striking and incontestable, that the multiplication of municipal libraries has at least had the result of developing and diffusing a taste for reading amongst the people of Paris.

It must be admitted that, in these totals, the instructive book is far from furnishing the largest quota. Of the 1,386,642 issues in 1890, Fiction alone laid claim to 690,105.

The proportion is a considerable one, although, from the first, the Administration has endeavoured to discourage the taste of the public for merely light reading.

Some years ago, instructions to this effect were given to the librarians, who were invited to use the influence their almost daily intercourse with the frequenters of their libraries was able to give them, to induce the latter to turn, by choice, to works of a more serious nature. The result of this campaign was that, in 1887, the average of issues fell from 24,764 to 22,517. Rather than confine themselves to instructive books the novel-readers chose to desert the library.

And the fact is easily explained. It is hard to require of a labourer, or of an artisan, or of a young shop employé, kept close all day long to his bench or his counter, that after his toil he should devote his leisure hours to kinds of reading which require a certain tension of mind, for which, too, his early education has little prepared him.

It seems, moreover, that it is just this class of readers who deserve thoughtful attention. For the very reason that they come to the municipal libraries to seek amusement, and amusement only, is not the keeping of them away attended with danger ? Is not the denial to them of the only kind of reading in which they know how to be interested the way to compel them to take elsewhere pleasures often of a far less innocent nature ? The only precaution that need be observed is not to let books of an immoral nature fall into their hands ; and it is to this object that the committees, whose business it is to purchase the books, should direct their care and thought.

Regrettable as may be the indifference of a large section of the public to the means of instruction so liberally put within their reach, the municipal libraries, by their developing and sustaining in the populace, under these conditions, the taste for reading, serve more and more to effect the aim which the Administration and Municipal Council of Paris designed, in their promoting and bountifully subsidising this work for the good of the people.

II.—LIBRARIES FOR INDUSTRIAL ART.

THE FORNEY LIBRARY.

Up to now we have only spoken of lending and reference libraries for books; but there are other kinds as well.

Apart from practical work, books are sufficient of themselves for the education neither of the labourer nor of the artisan engaged in manufacture; to complete their technical instruction, and above all to mould and refine their taste, the study of patterns is a *sine quâ non*. To this idea is due the creation of municipal libraries for industrial art, where are studied, and above all lent out, patterns (in the form of prints, photographs and designs) which are of the greatest possible use to the section of the working-class population of Paris whose callings are confined to art and derive their inspiration from it.

There are ten of these libraries, eight of which, however, are really sections of ordinary libraries.

These industrial arts which have always been the glory of Paris; the cabinet-maker's, the porcelain and fan-painter's, the bronze worker's and embroiderer's, that of the skilled pattern-designers of both sexes, all these find the elements of study and comparison and, as a consequence, of inspiration in the Industrial Art Libraries.

The list would be a long one of the artisans who, by means of loans from these libraries, have improved in their art and ultimately risen from the rank of employées to that of employers, a long one, too, of the humble manufacturers to whom these loans made possible a participation, in many cases both remunerative and creditable, in the Exhibition of 1889.

The most important, if not altogether the oldest in date, of these institutions is the FORNEY LIBRARY.

Founded in 1886 by means of a legacy of 200,000 francs made over to the City of Paris by M. Aimé-Samuel Forney, it was installed in the Faubourg St. Antoine, in a hall fitted up specially for its inauguration, which in consequence of the purchases and numerous generous gifts that continually contribute to its enrichment, is already insufficient for its purpose. The special committee charged with the care of its administration is carrying on active negotiations for the transfer of the library to premises which will permit of its collections being classified, and of guaranteeing the satisfactory performance of the services it is designated to render.

It is composed of two sections, the one for reading and designing in the building itself, the other for lending designs for study at home. The first comprises collections of art and of science, the rarity or the high value of which is a bar to letting them outside the building; the works number about 1300, ranging in cost from 20 to 1000 francs. The other section at the outset only comprised volumes below 20 francs in value; the generous gifts of the Directory of Fine Arts and municipal subscriptions have since enriched it to the extent of doubling in number the most costly collections of the reference library. Thus it presents the unique advantage of lending for home reading publications of a value of several hundred francs, such as the *Dictionnaire raisonné du Mobilier français* by Viollet-le-Duc, the *Dictionnaire de l'Ameublement et de la Décoration*, by Henry Havard, the *Histoire universelle des Peintres*, by Charles Blanc, the *Chefs-d'œuvre de l'Orfèvrerie ancienne à l'Exposition de Budapest*, and various others, not to speak of the latest works on applied science, treatises on photography, electricity, mechanics and buildings.

To do so without risk, and at the same time to obviate the too long detention of the same work in the same hands, one volume is formed into two or several according to its importance, and of a collection of engravings the plates are taken out and placed between cardboards for separate circulation. In this way the library multiplies the services rendered by one and the same work, and keeps the deserving class of seekers after knowledge up to date with the works on advanced science and the productions of high art.

This lending section contains actually about 1500 works forming almost 3000 volumes, and 35,000 engravings and photographs that relate to the various industries of decoration, in

stone, in wood, and in metal, in pottery, in weaving, and building.

In order to make the instruction afforded by books and patterns complete, the Forney Library each year, during the winter months, organises lectures free and open to the public, to deal with questions of industrial art and applied science, the results of which are published.

Opened to the public on March 1st, 1886, it had lent at the close of the same year 9,413 volumes or engravings. In 1890 this total rose to 39,639. This result is the more remarkable, from the fact that between 1886 and 1890, eight libraries of the same description have been established in the various working-class and manufacturing districts of Paris. Founded under circumstances far more humble, simply as annexes, as already said, to reading libraries of earlier creation, these departments for industrial design are entirely supported by the communal funds. Instead of giving support to the manifold industries of the capital, like the Forney Library, they confine themselves to the sustaining of those that are quartered by preference in those districts where the libraries are established. The total of their operations amounted in 1890 to 37,665.

III.—INTERIOR ORGANISATION AND WORKING OF THE LIBRARIES.

The organisation of all these libraries, for reading as well as industrial design, is of the simplest possible nature. The uniform rules adopted for their working tend before everything to guarantee promptness of attendance. Each of them is under the direction of a librarian, assisted by one or more sub-librarians, and one or more attendants. They are open every evening of the week for two hours, and on Sunday morning for the same length of time. Some libraries that are more frequented are open for two hours in the afternoon during the week to afford additional facilities for reading. The one which is placed in the Mairie of the 11th Arrondissement, and which is very largely used, remains open from 11 to 5 o'clock, in addition to the usual evening hours.

The Forney Library is open on week-days from 1 to 3 o'clock, and from 7 to 10 o'clock in the evening; on Sunday from 9 o'clock till noon, and from 2 to 5 o'clock.

Thus, as a general rule, the municipal libraries are only open to the public for two hours a day ; it is during this short space of time that they admit an average of 65 readers or borrowers.

The volumes are arranged on the shelves without any difference being made as to kinds or series of any description, solely in the order of the numbers they have received at the time of their acquisition ; the system of numbering is unalterable, proceeding simply from 1 to infinity without interruption or repetition. This system, open to criticism no doubt in the eyes of some, is the only one that can vouchsafe dispatch and regularity of supply in institutions to which the public come in crowds at certain hours, and the conduct of which is entrusted to a staff of just the number needed and no more. It is the only system which permits of a volume being found without any hesitation and fumbling about for it, and the only one which allows of the most thorough use being made of premises frequently limited in room, the dimensions of which do not permit of spaces being reserved for the completion or commencement of various series. The number affixed to each volume is taken from an entry-register, in which the books are entered just as they are acquired.

Moreover, to make the system complete, and to facilitate the researches of readers, each librarian has printed, from time to time, a systematic catalogue, which he distributes free of cost among those who resort to the library, and which is kept up to date with all the fresh acquisitions by means of a card catalogue, the use of which is free to the public.

Each borrower is furnished with a pocket-book, which the librarian hands him free of charge, and which bears on its cover a number, the name, profession and abode of the holder, the name of the library, and the chief regulations for its conduct.

These regulations are far from being numerous, and are cut down to just the number required to ensure punctuality of supply of books given out, and their security when lent. They require of the borrowers—without any difference being made as to sex—who must be sixteen years of age at least, that they should prove their identity and residence in the district in which the library is situate, a proof which is established without difficulty by means of an elector's card, a rent receipt, or a mere certificate from an employer. They fix the hours of the opening of the library, and the duration of time for the loan, which must not exceed fifteen

days for each volume. Lastly, they bind the borrower to replace at his own expense books which may be damaged or lost.

In the case of those under age, the documents showing their identity have to be backed up by a warrant from the parents or a responsible employer.

Lastly, the librarian is furnished with a register, in which he enters, with the date for each book lent, the number and title of the volume, the number in order of the borrower's pocket-book, and, if desirable, notes as to the condition of the book, in order that the reader may not be held responsible for previous damage. A copy of these notes is also made in the borrower's pocket-book.

When the volume comes back the date of its return is noted in the pocket-book, and in the register opposite the date when it was lent. And it is by referring each day in his register to that day fortnight, that the librarian ascertains whether the books are returned without delay according to the rules.

In cases of delay, the borrowers are reminded by letter to observe the rule. It is seldom that this first warning is without effect ; but the librarians are authorised to withdraw their pocket-books from, and as a consequence to forbid the library to, for a longer or shorter time, those borrowers who have been guilty of repeated acts of negligence, as well as those who do not take enough care of the volumes entrusted to them.

In 1890 the credit appropriated for the support of the municipal libraries, not including the special budget of the Forney Library, amounted to 225,000 francs, of which 14,000 must be deducted for the creation of fresh ones ; this represents an average of 3,400 francs per library of those in which all the working arrangements are complete.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

The Opening of the Longsight Library (Manchester).

SPEECH BY MR. ALEXANDER IRELAND.

A LIBRARY was opened at Longsight on Saturday, July 23rd, by Mr. Alexander Ireland. The library is established in what has hitherto been known as the Longsight Mechanics' Institution, Stockport Road, the trustees of which have transferred their property to the Free Libraries Committee of the Manchester Corporation. The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Leech) presided over the opening proceedings, and he was supported by Mrs. Leech, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Ireland, Mr. J. W. Southern (chairman of the Free Libraries Committee), Alderman Dr. Russell, the Rev. C. P. Roberts (rector of Longsight), Aldermen Shaw and A. E. Lloyd, Councillors Rawson, Reynolds, Rowley, S. H. Brooks, Hoy, Uttley, and Norris, Mr. J. H. Nodal, Mr. John Mills, Mr. F. Hampson, Mr. T. Ashbury, and Mr. Charles W. Sutton (chief librarian).

The Mayor referred briefly to the history of the Mechanics' Institution and to the excellent work it had accomplished since its formation in 1854. The Corporation were taking over 2,701 books from the institution, many of them much worn. As a Corporation Library they were starting with 4,203 books of the best character, and all in good condition. They were glad to have with them their old friend Mr. Ireland to open the library, and they were proud to see him so vigorous in the 83rd year of his age. Mr. Ireland had been the intimate friend of Carlyle, Emerson, Froude, Lowell, and William and Robert Chambers, and he was one of the very few men living who knew that great enchanter, Sir Walter Scott.

Mr. Alexander Ireland said, in the course of his address, that he was the last survivor of the original committee which in 1852 originated the Manchester Free Library, and that since then, a period of forty years, 250 Free Libraries had been established throughout the kingdom containing probably 2½ million volumes. Notwithstanding all this we were far behind the United States in the matter of Free Libraries. In the state of Massachusetts there were a few years ago 182 free town libraries. One of the most telling points in favour of these institutions was the fact that one could take home for reading, free of any cost whatever, the latest book of travels, or biography, or essays, or fiction or philosophy. For thousands of young men and women engaged in our towns in perhaps fatiguing and monotonous employment, was there now afforded a ready means of improving their habits and tastes, an improvement that would abide through life. Mr. Ireland went on to contrast the wonderful cheapness with which good books could be supplied to young people at the present day—for example the works of Shakespeare, Dickens or Kingsley—with the fabulous prices that had to be paid when he was a boy. He remembered well his passionate admiration for one book, an expensive one, in two volumes, which he wished to possess, and being

unable to purchase it spent several months in transcribing it, thus literally making it his own. Alluding to his friendship with James Russell Lowell, he quoted a few sentences of his, worthy, as he said, to serve as the inscription over the entrance of any free library:—"Here you are admitted to the whole world of thought, of fancy and imagination—to the company of saint and sage, of the wisest and wittiest, at their wisest and wittiest moments. It enables you to see with the keenest eyes, hear with the finest ears, and listen to the sweetest voices of all time. More than that, it annihilates time and space for you, it revives for you without a miracle the Age of Wonder, endowing you with the shoes of swiftness and the cap of darkness, so that we walk invisible. . . . There are people who will descend to any servility, submit to any insult, for the sake of getting themselves into what is euphemistically called good society. Did it ever occur to them that there is a select society of all the centuries to which they and theirs can be admitted for the asking—a society, too, which will not involve in ruinous expense, and still more ruinous waste of time and health and faculties?" In addition to Mr. Lowell's words, it occurred to him that he had somewhere read that over the entrance to the famous Alexandrine Library, founded 300 years before the Christian era, were inscribed these words—"The nourishment of the soul." Another authority said, "The medicine of the soul." Following up Mr. Lowell's happy allusion to the select society which libraries afforded, he dwelt on its mixed and heterogeneous character. They entered the company of bishops and archbishops and learned doctors of both churches, of historians, men of science, social and political reformers and idealists, novelists and critics, essayists grave and gay, philosophical thinkers orthodox and heterodox, and, to add to the variety, the sons and daughters of song. Heterogeneous though it might appear, there was, nevertheless, an essential unity and accordance in this motley company when one came to hold communication with its separate members in their books. As regards the choice of books, that was a thing to be determined by one's own taste and desires. The best books, it had been said, for a man were not always those which the wise recommended, but oftener those which met the peculiar wants, the natural twist of his mind, and which, therefore, awakened interest and rivetted thought. The wise and practical advice of Samuel Johnson was as follows:—"I would not advise a rigid adherence to a particular line of study. I myself have never persisted in any plan for two days together. A man ought to read just as inclination leads him, for what he reads as a task will do him little good." Alluding to the subject of desultory reading the speaker quoted the advice of Dr. Arnold:—"Keep your view of men and things extensive, and depend upon it that a mixed knowledge is not a superficial one. As far as it goes the views that it gives are true, but he who has read deeply one class of writers alone gets views which are almost sure to be perverted, and which are not only narrow but false. Adjust your proposed amount of reading to your time and inclination. This is perfectly free to any man, but, whether the amount be large or small, let it be varied in its kind, and widely varied. If I have a confident opinion on any one point connected with the improvement of the human mind it is on this." In answer to the deprecatory remarks which were so often made regarding the large proportion of volumes of works of imagination and fiction, compared with those of other departments of literature, which was found in free libraries, Mr. Ireland, while counselling his hearers to let their reading be a due mixture of entertainment and instruction, maintained that the function of imaginative literature was to awaken the sympathies, to quicken the moral sensibilities and enlarge their moral vision. The sympathies of those engaged in dull and wearisome work were apt to flag and become languid. Nothing was

more refreshing to such than to spend, after the day's work, an hour or two in reading wholesome works of imagination. The mind readily became interested in such reading and was not taxed by it. The reader became detached, as it were, from his present surroundings, and for a time inhabited a brighter world than the one he daily lived in. In support of the views he had held for half a lifetime, he quoted a passage from a lecture by Mr. Goschen, in which the latter exhorted those whom he was addressing to look beyond their own lives and to have pleasure in surroundings different from those in which they moved, to love the intense enjoyment of mental change of scene, to let the action of the imagination neutralise and check the dwarfing influence of necessarily narrow careers and necessarily stunted lives. Before leaving this topic, Mr. Ireland gave it as his opinion that the supply of fiction, while abundant, should exclude third-rate and inferior productions and everything that was vicious and trashy. Donations of books considered objectionable should be declined as being unsuitable to the objects and aims of Free Libraries, which were to safeguard and strengthen the young against temptation by supplying pure wholesome and instructive reading. It would add greatly to the usefulness of Free Libraries if judicious lists of books in the different departments of literature were drawn up by the librarians and placed within the reach of readers. He would like to see the introduction of occasional lectures on the choice of books, by competent men, as an adjunct to the Free Library system. He would like readers who had a decided taste for literature to devote a few hours occasionally to the old English writers, such as Bacon, Milton, Jeremy Taylor, and Sir Thomas Browne. After quoting one or two fine passages each from Bacon, Milton and Jeremy Taylor, Mr. Ireland also recommended readers to become familiar with the authors like Gray, Fielding, Sterne, Goldsmith, Johnson, Cowper, Burke, Gibbon and Robert Burns, and, later on, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Jane Austen, Walter Scott, Lamb, Shelley, Keats, Byron, Hazlitt, and Macaulay. If they preferred the writers nearer our own time or living authors, they had an abundant choice in Carlyle, Emerson, Lowell, Holmes; in Tennyson, Browning, Ruskin, George Eliot, Hawthorne, Froude, Herbert Spencer, Frederic Harrison, Mrs. Gaskell, Charlotte Brontë, and John Morley. Besides the treasures of thought embodied in the works of these masters of thought, it should be noted how they had maintained the strength and precision, as well as the variety, of the English language—in some instances reaching a vividness and power not previously attained in our literature. It was an education in itself to study and compare these various styles in all their diversities—each attained and perfected by subtle processes of thought and selection, forming the finest outcome of cultivated intellect. He earnestly hoped that this library might be the means of ministering to the moral and intellectual needs of many thoughtful persons who sought in books something higher than amusement or mere passive enjoyment, although he freely admitted the claims of both amusement and passive enjoyment, when the bow required to be relaxed. What he meant by something higher was the inspiration and quickening influence of high aims and noble and worthy purposes. Might the best use of this library be to strengthen good resolutions in the young in the direction of manfulness and self-help; might it teach the salutary lesson how to enjoy a little thankfully and to endure much bravely, leading to a habit of mind which had no sympathy with frivolity, irreverence, or debasing views of life. Might the use of it implant in the minds of many a love of literature and science, which would beautify their daily existence and render it happier and more bearable. Might it teach the lesson of patience and hopeful endeavour under difficulties and hindrances. It was not always a disadvantage to have to struggle with

these. On the contrary, difficulties often prove to be a beneficent discipline, since they stimulated endeavour and called forth the power to breast and conquer them. If that institution in the course of its existence should have been found helpful to some who had passed middle life or arrived at old age, to some to whom ill-health or sorrow had brought weary hours, it would always redound to the credit and honour of its founders that by its aid the monotony of these hours had been lightened or their tediousness beguiled. The greatest of meditative poets, Wordsworth, had said in one of his finest sonnets—

Books, we know,
Are a substantial world, both pure and good,
Round which, with tendrils strong as flesh and blood,
Our pastime and our happiness may grow.

Assuredly an intimate communion with the minds of the wisest and most gifted of our race rarely failed to bring with it not only patience and hope wherewith to meet the inevitable cares and disappointments of life, but also fortitude to bear its worst calamities.

On the motion of Mr. J. W. Southern, seconded by Mr. J. H. Nodal, Mr. Ireland was warmly thanked for his address.

Mr. Ireland, in responding, called on Mr. Sutton to present him with "the greatest book in the world, Shakspeare's plays, a book that will live to the end of the world." A copy of the "Leopold Shakspeare" was then lent to Mr. Ireland.

Alderman Dr. Russell proposed, and Mr. Reynolds seconded, a vote of thanks to the Mayor, which was passed.

Opening of the Stoke Newington (London) Library.

SPEECH BY MR. PASSMORE EDWARDS.

ON Saturday, July 23rd, Mr. J. Passmore Edwards opened the new premises of the Stoke Newington Public Library, which have been erected in Church Street to replace the small hall at the Assembly Rooms, in Defoe Road, where the library has hitherto been situated. The new building is a handsome structure of red brick, with buff-stone "dressings." It contains a spacious lending library, a news and magazine room, librarian's office and residence, and other accommodation. The site was purchased from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for £1,000; £2621 is to be expended on the fabric and £379 in furniture. Space is provided for 40,000 volumes, the number of books at present being about 6,000, including a gift of 1,000 volumes from Mr. Edwards. The architects were Messrs. Bridgman and Goss, and the builder Mr. W. M. Dabbs. There was a large gathering of the residents of the neighbourhood at the opening proceedings, over which Prebendary Shelford (Rector of Stoke Newington) presided. The Chairman gave Mr. Edwards a hearty welcome, and called upon him to open the library.

Mr. Edwards, who was heartily cheered, then proceeded to address the assembly. He congratulated them on the light and spacious premises that had been erected. He said he had never seen a better return for money expended. This was pre-eminently an educational age. Unlike those who had been contesting at the recent elections, those who availed themselves of free libraries were all victors and none were vanquished. Many people were apprehensive that we were going a little too fast, and that what were called the "people" were getting power a little too rapidly. Then by all means let them educate the

people. Let them have more public libraries. Let the people be a reading people. A reading people would be a thoughtful people, and a thoughtful people would take care of the Empire. If it was desirable to have splendid men and chaste women, how could they be produced better than by institutions of this kind? By having good men we should have a great nation; and by having a great nation we should have a great Empire. He believed that the greatest fact in human history at the present time—and he did not speak of it with any particular pride—was the British Empire. This world had seen great Empires which had flourished, and then passed away. If the British Empire was to be maintained, it must be by the quality rather than by the quantity of those who composed it. If we had improved citizens we should have a great nation which would be the centre of a great Empire. One thing about institutions of the kind which most pleased him was that they were especially for the people. Nowadays, the individual was fast losing himself in the community. We were approaching a time when all must be for everyone and everyone for all. Everyone who contributed, in however small a degree, to the rates of that district, was entitled to the use of that library and to feel that he had a share in it. Some one might say "We have only one library in the midst of a population of 30,000 or 40,000 people." Then they must have other libraries. Free education had recently been established. Why should we not have free libraries on a similar system? Why should not the parish and the nation each contribute its quota? He saw no reason whatever. If that were done they would soon have three or four libraries in the district. He never went to the seaside, or listened at the opera, or read Milton, Scott, or Dickens, without wishing that the people too might participate in such pleasures. If they were in the East of London, he should probably have told them that the East had great claims on the West. The waste in the West almost corresponded with its wealth. But his hearers were not in the East. They were in a comparatively well-to-do district, and he could not appeal to the West on their behalf. But he appealed to Stoke Newington. The library wanted some thousands more volumes, and it looked to the district to supply them.

The Rev. J. D. Kewer Williams moved that the warmest thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Edwards for his presence and munificent gift.

Mr. Eve, in seconding, mentioned that Mr. Edwards had given 40,000 volumes to different libraries, and, not satisfied with that generosity, he had built a library as well. It had therefore been unanimously agreed amongst them that, if possible, he above anyone else should be asked to open this library.

The vote having been carried by acclamation, was acknowledged by Mr. Edwards, who then declared the library open, and the company dispersed.

Opening of the Otley (Works) Free Library.

SPEECH BY THE REV. DR. ROBERT COLLYER.

ON Tuesday, August 2nd, the formal dedication and handing over of a library and free school which has been built, furnished, and endowed at the sole expense of Mr. Robinson Gill, stone merchant, of New York, and formerly a resident in the district, took place in the presence of a numerous gathering, and was accompanied by much rejoicing on the part of the inhabitants of Timble Great, Timble Little, and the hamlets

of High and Low Snowdon, with the northern portion of the township of Askwith, near Otley, for whose use these institutions have been specially provided. The building, which has been erected from designs by Mr. A. Marshall, of Otley, is 43ft. in length by 31ft. 6in. in width, exclusive of porch to the front entrance and bay window to east gable. The front rooms consist of entrance-hall, library, and committee room. To the back is a large room for concerts, lectures, classes, &c., and which can be divided by a moveable partition into two rooms. The internal fittings are on the latest and most approved principle. At the opening and dedicatory ceremony, Mr. Robinson Gill, the donor, stated that he was led to build and endow those premises, in order to perpetuate the memory of his mother, and also to place within the reach of the villagers those means of mental improvement and self-culture which in rural districts were not often easily accessible.

Dr. Robert Collyer (of New York), in opening the building, referred at some length to the worth of books, and to his own insatiable appetite with regard thereto when he was young, although he could only get them with very great difficulty. "Books," said he, "were the delight of my early years; they are still my delight as I near the milestone which Moses, the Man of God, set down at three score and ten; and I think sometimes that if I win my way to a better world, or get there by God's great bounty, and find no books, or any treasure they stand for, I shall want to come back and haunt my library. I was not a model boy. A gentleman wrote me from this side the water to ask if I was myself, and when I assured him I was, among many things he told me was this, 'Thou standing with his aunt one day, she said, 'There goes that Collyer lad, he's a taästril.' But the books were of worth to me then to help me along a bit, I think, in the right direction, for they were good books which fell into my hands, and all the seed did not fall on thorny ground. I began to dream dreams at my work at the mill about what I would like to do when I was a man; and this was not to be a sailor or to drive a stage-coach, but to go into a book shop; only that seemed far beyond my reach. And so these children will read and dream here and there on the farms, read good books that will move their hearts and nourish their minds; and, as when one looks at his face in the glass, they will catch something of a likeness to what they read, while they are only bent on the delight of it and the charm, so I may give you a bit of good counsel. It is this—let them browse and welcome when the tasks in the school and on the farm are done, and do not trouble them over much with 'Thou shalt not,' touching what they want to read, for the wise old Roman well said, 'Books are the food of youth as they are the delight of old age, the delight of the home, and no hindrance to thee when thou goest abroad.' So it was in my own childhood and youth, and so it has been through all these years which have made me an old man, and lifted me once more over the sea with my old friend. But those far-off days, hard as they were, are full of pleasant memories, because they are full of the sunshine books can give. You must bear with me for saying this, because I know of no way to tell you what books may do for us all, but to tell you what they have done for me, and how well I know that they

Are a substantial world, both pure and good;
Round which, with tendrils strong as flesh and blood,
Our pastime and our happiness can grow.

It was a dream of many years, too, that some time I should be able to buy all the books I loved, and have them for my own. It was many, many, years before I could do this, what with a house full of children, a workman's wages, and the dear house-mother, who now rests in heaven, to look sharp after me, and see that I did not spend beyond the line of

'spend as you go' for the household needs. But sometimes I would trench on the margin, and then I would smuggle my book in on the sly. Once I hid one under a bush in the garden all night, and a few days after, when my guardian saw it in the bookcase, and said, 'Why, father, when did you get that book?' I answered, 'Oh, I have had that some time now'—but she found me out, or else I confessed—I do not quite remember. That long dream has come true. I number my books by thousands now, and otherwise am not a poor man, but the best wealth still lies in my library of the things we can touch and see, for I know what Shakespeare means when he makes one say

These books I prize beyond my Dukedom.

You may think it a matter of sour grapes, but indeed it is true, that I would not give my library to-day for some dukedoms I know of, if for the rest of my life I must be deprived of their matchless companionship. You have the choicest and best of these books I set such store on in this library, which is only as when you plant a slip from the nursery which will grow into a noble and fruitful tree. But my delight and the delight of all readers may and will be yours. You will take many of these volumes to your homes, and then into your hearts. Some of them you will want for your own when you have read them, and find out, as I have, that 'to ware brass,' as we say, for books is one of the best investments we can make."

Votes of thanks were passed to Dr. Collyer for his address, and to Mr. Robinson Gill for his noble gift.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

The Bibliography of Matthew Arnold. Compiled and edited by Thomas Burnett Smart. *London: J. Davy & Sons, 1892.* 8vo., pp. 90.

Mr. Smart's *Bibliography* belongs to that remarkably small class of books which are so well done and so complete that a reviewer can find very little to say about them, except by flying off at a tangent. We have first the bibliography of the poetical works in chronological order, from *Alaric at Rome* (of which Mr. Gosse's copy is no longer unique) to *Geist's Grave*, with a valuable synoptical index, by which the course of any one poem may be traced through the successive editions. Then come the list of the prose works, with references to the magazines and newspapers in which many of them appeared. Then a bibliography of Criticisms and Reviews, and lastly a few addenda. Nothing could be more complete or better. Mr. Smart appends a few notes, mentioning, for instance, that at the Commemoration of 1843 the undergraduates were so uproarious that Matthew Arnold's prize poem, *Cromwell*, was never read, also that the poet duly obtained the £10 which the Oxford publisher of these exercises was wont to give for their copyright—a good bargain in this case. He mentions, too, that that most delightful of all Arnold's prose works, *Friendship's Garland*, endured the ignominy of being sold as a "remainder," and that the true collector may henceforth distinguish the original issue in white cloth boards from the reddish-brown cover of the copies which had to wait for a purchaser so many years. But when they are about to pay their five-and-twenty shillings for the right copy, let collectors bethink them of the poet's own words,

written in a copy of the Poems, "By A" (1849), in the library of his friend, Mr. Frederick Locker. For some reason this volume was withdrawn after a few copies—less than fifty—had been sold, and the enhanced price paid for it had not been rubbed out from Mr. Locker's purchase. *Haud equidem invidio, miror magis*, was the poet's note—which is the one thing we have been able to find which might have been inserted in Mr. Smart's Bibliography, but is not.

The Press of North Carolina in the Eighteenth Century, with Biographical Sketches of the Printers, an Account of the Manufacture of Paper, and a Bibliography of the Issues. By Stephen B. Weeks, Ph. D. Small 4to, pp. 80. Only 250 copies printed. Price, \$2.50.

A really valuable addition to our knowledge of both the history of literature and printing in the hitherto much-neglected southern colonies. It includes a bibliography of the issues of the presses from 1751 to 1800, being especially full on the laws of the State, and on the early newspapers.

Bibliotheca Accipitraria: a Catalogue of Books, ancient and modern, relating to Falconry. With notes, glossary, and vocabulary. By James Edmund Harting, Librarian to the Linnean Society of London. London: Bernard Quaritch, 1891. 8vo, pp. xxviii., 289.

Mr. Harting's *Bibliotheca Accipitraria* is one of the best pieces of bibliography we have ever seen. The subject is, of course, a small one, and admits of refinements of treatment which would be impossible in more popular themes, but here everything is done which could be done; the books have been not merely catalogued but read, or at least skimmed, their comparative value is duly set forth, charming illustrations make the pages delightful, while some good glossaries offer useful help to students. Mr. Harting's chief predecessor in his subject has been Herr Schlegel, who at the end of his magnificent treatise on Falconry, completed in 1853, added a list of 135 works dealing with the subject. Mr. Harting has raised this number to 378, and though of course (according to a joke which we grieve to say he makes twice) a small proportion of the addition could not reasonably be expected to find their way into Schlegel's book, having been published since its appearance, the greater number were unknown to him. Of these 378 works 82 are English, 46 German, 84 French, 38 Spanish, 35 Italian, 29 Latin, 13 Arabic, 4 Chinese and 14 from Japan. A bibliography more cosmopolitan in proportion to its size has probably never been compiled, and it is interesting to learn from Mr. Harting that whether by transmission or by similarity of invention the main methods of the sport, and the hoods and other gear employed in it, are almost exactly the same all the world over. Of its antiquity the fact that the likeness of a fowler, falcon on fist, was discovered by Sir Henry Layard among the Assyrian sculptures at Khorsabad, may be taken as sufficient proof. In England we have an interesting passage concerning it in the Anglo-Saxon *Colloquy* of Archbishop Aelfric, while the most celebrated of all treatises upon it was written in Latin by the Emperor Frederick II. about 1239. Of English treatises Mr. Harting singles out for special praise Turberville's *Book of Falconrie* (1575). Latham's *Falconry or the Falcons Lure and Cure* (1615), and Bert's *Approved Treatise of Hawks and Hawking* (1619). Of the entries of French books perhaps the most interesting is the article on *Le Livre du Roy*

Modus et de la Royné Ratio (A. Neyret : Chambéry, 1486), an allegory, founded upon the art, probably written by Jean de Melun, Sieur de Tancarville. As Mr. Harting mentions this work at such length he might have found space for a few lines on Chaucer's *Squires Tale*, with its unfinished incident of the Facon Peregryne and the Tercelet, more especially as the probable eastern origin of this Tale makes it doubly interesting.

A Manual for the Collector and Amateur of Old English Plays. Edited from the material formed by Kirkman, Langbaine, Downes, Oldys, and Halliwell-Phillipps. With extensive additions and corrections by W. Carew Hazlitt. London: Pickering and Chatto, 1892. 4to, pp. viii., 284. Two hundred and fifty copies printed. Price One Guinea nett.

Mr. Carew Hazlitt's *Manual for the Collector of Old English Plays* is a very useful dictionary, arranged alphabetically under titles, with occasional notes, literary and biographical, but not much bibliographical information. It is always easy for an editor to cast scorn upon the predecessors on whose foundations he is building, and in a remarkably self-satisfied preface Mr. Hazlitt indulges in this cheap amusement to his heart's content. Retribution probably awaits him at the hands of the next editor, but we do not pretend to a specialist's knowledge of the subject, and would rather welcome a useful work of reference than pick holes in it. We may note, however, that the list (at the end of the book) of the complete works of the various dramatic authors has not always been brought up to date in the matter of editions, and that the inclusion of John Heywood's *Woorkes* is a blunder, the *Woorkes* only containing his non-dramatic pieces, and not all of these.

The Playing Cards of the Master E. S. of 1466. Reproduced by the heliographic process. With an explanatory Essay by Max Lehrs, International Chalcographical Society. London Agent: Bernard Quaritch, 1892. fol., pp. 22. With 13 plates.

Everyone who is interested in the history of printing must extend his sympathies to all that concerns the art of engraving, which, in the fifteenth century, had so many points of contact with it. We may, therefore, spare a few lines to welcome this "first extraordinary publication" of the International Chalcographical Society, a fine reproduction of the Playing Cards of the Master E. S., with a useful essay by Dr. Max Lehrs, the fortunate finder, in a library at Bologna, of the nearest approach to a complete pack known to exist. Dresden, Munich and Vienna have each furnished small contributions, so that altogether only seven or eight cards are missing. The subjects represented are Men, Dogs, Birds, and Escutcheons, and (confusing as the cards would be at a modern whist table) the combined vigour and neatness of drawing and engraving is beyond praise. It may be mentioned that instead of three court cards, these old packs mostly have four, the ten being replaced by an under-knave. Dr. Lehrs conjectures that the unknown artist E. S. probably worked in the district of the Upper Rhine, and that he died in 1467, just when his fame had become sufficiently great to induce him to begin to sign his works. The reproductions are admirably executed, and though there are three editions (with English, German, and French letterpress), only 250 copies are printed in all. The members of the society may thus be congratulated on possessing both a fine book and a rare.

Illuminated Manuscripts in Classical and Mediæval Times: their Art and their Technique. By J. Henry Middleton. Cambridge: at the University Press, 1892. 4to., pp. xxiv., 270. Price One Guinea.

Professor Middleton's history of illuminated manuscripts deals with a subject which has not been handled in any substantive treatise for a great number of years, though several good monographs have appeared on various portions of it. On the other hand, illumination formed so important a branch of mediæval art that it is necessarily discussed and described in any good history of painting. This was the case in Woltmann and Woermann's well-known work, in which the treatment of illuminations was so full that Prof. Middleton has been able, with rather an excess of economy, to borrow no less than fifty-six out of his fifty-seven illustrations from it, to the detriment of his own book, and not, we may imagine, to the satisfaction of its purchasers. Still even with this drawback his work is a useful one, and fills, though not quite ideally well, a distinct gap in the history of books. Special importance is given to the three chapters on classical manuscripts by Prof. Middleton's intimate acquaintance with the archæology of ancient Rome. It will be a surprise, we imagine, to most of our readers to learn the extent to which the library system was developed in the imperial city:—

"As early as the reign of Augustus," we are told, "Rome possessed several large public libraries (*bibliotheca*). The first of these was instituted in 37 B.C. by Asinius Pollio, both for Greek and Latin manuscripts. The second was the *Bibliotheca Octavia*, founded by Augustus in the Campius Martius in honour of his sister. The third was the magnificent double *Library of Apollo Palatinus* [does "double library" mean Greek and Latin?], which Augustus built on the Palatine Hill. The fourth, also on the Palatine, the *Bibliotheca Tiberiana*, was founded by Tiberius. The fifth was built by Vespasian as part of the group of buildings in his new *Forum Pacis*. The sixth and largest of all was the double library for Greek and Latin books built by Trajan in his Forum close to the *Basilica Ulpia*. To some extent a classification of subjects was adopted in these great public libraries [cp. the attempt at specialising now being made in the College Libraries at Oxford], one being mainly legal, another for ancient history, a third for state papers and modern records, but this classification appears to have been only partially adhered to. In addition to these state libraries, Rome also possessed a large number of smaller 'parish libraries' in the separate *vici*, and the total number given in the *Regionary catalogues* as existing in the time of Constantine is enormous.

"With regard to the arrangement and fittings of Roman libraries, the usual method appears to have been this: Cupboards (*armaria*) fitted with shelves to receive the rolls or *codices*, and closed by doors, were placed against the walls all round the room. These *armaria* were usually rather low, not more than from four to five feet in height, and on them were placed busts of famous authors; while the wall-space above the bookcases was decorated with similar portrait reliefs or paintings designed to fill panels or circular medallions."

In describing the illuminated manuscripts of classical times Prof. Middleton has to deal as best he can with dry bones, as no early specimens of them have come to us. His general success is relieved by two extraordinary blunders (p. 13) about the recently-discovered manuscript of Aristotle's treatise on the *Political Constitution of Athens*, which

he asserts to have been "saved from destruction by being used as inner wrappers for a coffin of about the year 100 A.D." On the contrary, the MS. of the Aristotle is a nearly perfect roll, and the coffin story arises apparently from a confusion with the fragments of the *Antiope* found by Mr. Flinders Petrie, which, we believe, were preserved in this manner. Again on page 21 Prof. Middleton speaks of the "accounts written on the back of the papyrus by some unphilosophical man of business not many years later than the date of the original treatise"—the accounts being really written on the front of the papyrus, the back of which was afterwards used for the Aristotle by some economical philosopher. Mistakes like these are certainly disquieting, and seriously diminish our reliance on Prof. Middleton's statements where we are unable to check them. Still his book contains a fairly full account of all the different schools of illumination, the Byzantine and Carolingian, the Celtic, the Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman, the French, Italian, and German, and even if marred by occasional mistakes, offers a very fair *conspectus* of his subject. Most interesting to Englishmen are the three chapters on Celtic, Saxon and Anglo-Norman art, though here the poverty of the illustrations (especially when compared with Westwood's profuseness in his monograph on the first two schools) is a serious drawback. From the 8th to the 12th century Ireland and England contained the finest workmen in Europe, and Prof. Middleton contributes an interesting item to his subject in noting that in Anglo-Norman times the English goldsmiths and English embroiderers were as famous as the miniaturists, so that embroidered vestments of English work (*opus Anglicanum*) were asked for from Rome itself. We know that the supremacy of English binders in the eleventh century was equally assured, and it is humiliating to remember how far Englishmen have now fallen away from their ancient artistic excellence.

A Bibliography of Book-Plates (Ex-Libris), by W. H. Fincham and James Roberts Brown. *Printed for private distribution, Plymouth, 1892.* 8vo., pp. 24. Only 100 copies printed.

The literature of the book-plate is of very recent growth, an article in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1822 having a substantial claim to be the first essay on the subject. It is not surprising, therefore, that this bibliography only contains one hundred and fifty-eight entries, although its compilers have swept the smallest fish—even a short review in the present periodical—into their net. As the authors quote as one of their entries the definition of a book plate from Cassell's Encyclopædic Dictionary, they might have found room for the definition from the new English Dictionary, "a label, usually pasted inside the front cover of a book, bearing the name or crest of the owner, or other device indicating ownership, position in a library, &c.," though the last four words are of doubtful correctness. The first instance Dr. Murray is able to quote is from Ireland's *Hogarth Illustrated* (1791): "The works of Callot were probably his first models, and shop-bills and book-plates his first performance," where the artistic value of the book-plate does not seem to be rated very highly. This is the only addition we can propose to Messrs. Fincham and Brown's list, nor is our solitary correction—that Mr. Frederick Locker's second name is not Lamson but Lampson—much more important. Brief as the list is it seems to us really complete, and it will be of the utmost service to all students of the literature of the book-plate.

Book Collecting: a Guide for Amateurs. By H. Slater. London, Swan Sonnenschein & Co. (The Young Collector Series), 1892. 8vo. pp. 130. Price One Shilling.

Mr. Slater has done some useful work as the editor of *Book Prices Current*, but we are afraid that the "young collector" who seeks instruction from this book will have a good deal to unlearn. For instance, when he grows up he will find that the date of the introduction of printing into any given city was not really affected, as Mr. Slater's list of "Latinised Place-names" would lead him to suppose, by variations in the Latin form of its name. Thus it is not a fact that when Basle was called *Athenae Rauracae* "the date of the first book known to have been printed there" was 1474 (p. 29), and when it was called *Colonia Munatiana* the date was 1460 (same page); nor that when Strassburg was called *Argentina*, printing was probably introduced there in 1456 (p. 28), while on the extremely rare occasions when it could have boasted the sweet name of "*Tribocorum*" it enjoyed the use of a press about 1440 (p. 33). We know of a book printed at Basle rubricated in 1468, and of a Bible printed at Strassburg rubricated in 1460, but we are unable to make these dates fit in nicely with all of Mr. Slater's. Again, we observe that printing was certainly introduced into Westmonasterium in 1474 (p. 33), and more doubtfully (as denoted by a query) into Londinum in the same year (p. 31), while into Brugæ it only arrived in 1475 (p. 29), information which is rather upsetting to the general belief that Caxton printed at Bruges before he came to Westminster, and that he never printed in the City of London at all. But then Mr. Slater knows that the Latinised name of Florence is *Firenze*, and of Oxford *Theatrum Sheldonianum*, where printing, though "the date is disputed," began in 1468; and in all this there is comfort, though we live in hopes that the next compiler of misinformation on the history of typography will have the manliness to say outright that Rood and Hunt were employed by the delegates of the Clarendon Press. But Mr. Slater has more news for us. "Six years," he says (p. 4), "after Gutenberg had completed his Bible of 42 lines there were no less than 50 German cities and towns in which presses had been established," a genial piece of multiplication to which he may well append the remark that "considering that this only brings us down to about the year 1462, it is evident with what rapidity the art of printing was seized upon through the length and breadth of the country of its probable origin." After this it is pleasant to note that Mr Slater believes in the old story of Fust having sold printed Bibles for manuscripts, that he gives poor Dibdin a certificate as "one of the best of English bibliographers," and that in his opinion the illustrations to the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* are "most probably by Andrea Mantegna."

Repertorium Bibliographicum in quo libri omnes ab arte typographica inventa usque ad annum MD. typis expressi, ordine alphabetico vel simpliciter enumerantur vel adcuratius recensentur. Opera Ludovici Hain. Indices Uberrimi opera Conradi Burger. Lipsiæ, Sumptibus Ottonis Harrassowitz. 1891. 8vo. pp. vi, 428. Price 16 marks.

It is difficult to say whether Herr Burger's work is to be welcomed more heartily for its promise or its performance. The promise is of the long-desired Supplement to Hain, the performance a most carefully compiled index to the existing work, whose value henceforth is nearly doubled.

As is well known, the *Repertorium* itself is arranged like any ordinary catalogue, alphabetically under the names of authors. Perhaps five, perhaps even ten per cent. of the books published in the fifteenth century occasionally find a reader, but of the vast majority the interest is no longer literary but typographical. It is the printers, therefore, and not the authors who should dictate the arrangement of a catalogue of *incunabula*, and Hain's disregard of this principle has till now seriously curtailed the usefulness of his great work. With Herr Burger's index a better time now dawns. Here it is the names of the printers that are arranged alphabetically, and under each name are recorded, with Hain's reference numbers, the short titles of the books published: (1) *sine anno*; (2) dated in chronological order, months and days being carefully mentioned wherever known; (3) anonymous publications of parentage established to Hain's satisfaction. Notes are added where a book is printed by one firm at the expense of another, and cross-references given in all cases of partnerships. Names of towns are interspersed with those of printers in cases where the birthplace of a book is known but not its parentage, and in an appendix comes the long list of books *sine nota*, whose printers Hain was unable to identify. An index of towns, with references to the printers working in them, forms the last item in this excellent work, by which the *Repertorium* is for the first time made useful for the history of printing instead of merely for the collation of particular books. Running through the names of English printers we note that Hain gives descriptions of sixty-three books printed by Caxton, of thirty-seven by Wynkyn de Worde, twenty-six by Pynson, seven by Lettoun and Machlinia (separately and in combination), two by Notary, one at London without printer's name, and eight at Oxford of which four are ascribed to Rood. Of the St. Alban's books we find no mention. Adding these up, we arrive at a total of just twelve dozen, or probably not more than forty-five per cent. of the English fifteenth-century books which have now been traced. It is improbable that the record for Germany, Italy, or France is anything like so imperfect as this, but the missing fifty-five per cent. of English books may suffice to show that Herr Burger's promised Supplement will not be a small one.

The Countess of Pembroke's *Arcadia*, written by Sir Philip Sidney, Knt. The original quarto edition (1590) in photographic facsimile, with a bibliographical introduction, edited by H. Oskar Sommer, Ph.D. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co. 1891. 8vo, pp. 45. ff. 360. Three hundred copies printed.

If we remember rightly, the last work reproduced in photographic facsimile under the superintendence of Dr. Sommer was Spenser's *Shepherd's Calendar*, "entitled," as we all know, "to the noble and vertuous Gentleman most worthy of all titles both of learning and chivalrie, M. Philip Sidney." From Spenser to Sidney is thus a natural transition, and the beauty of the first edition of the *Arcadia*, together with Dr. Sommer's own interest in the pastoral romance, easily explains the editor's choice of this rather than any other of Sidney's works. The first editions of *Astrophel and Stella* and of *Defense of Poesy* have certainly no lack of interest of their own, but typographically they are naught. Pensonby's *Arcadia*, on the other hand, is a really fine book, printed in a bold, handsome type and with good initial letters. Sidney's coat of arms, too, with its eight quarterings and quaint supporters, lends a certain attractiveness to the title-page; though the disposition of the title, in which COUNTESS

is the conspicuous word, is as senseless as in most contemporary publications. By the ingenious device of tracing the title-pages of all the sixteenth and seventeenth century editions and then bidding his printers imitate them as closely as possible, Dr. Sommer enables his readers to view them all for themselves, and it is interesting to note that it was not until the tenth (really the thirteenth) edition, printed in 1655, that the word COUNTESS was dethroned from its absurd prominence and ARCADIA set in its place. Until 1655 no edition, we note, had been issued since 1638, the troubled time of the Civil War not being favourable to the long romance, which was haply brought back into notice by the advertisement which Milton gave it when he accused Charles I. of taking for his own use Zelmane's prayer from this "vain amatorious poem." After the Restoration, two editions were published in the seventeenth century, in 1662 and 1674, and it is noticeable as showing the continuity of publication that in the last of these there still appears a headpiece which had been used seventy-six years before in the first collected edition of Sidney's works, and even then was ten or twelve years old. Of the peculiarities of the different editions a full account is given in Dr. Sommer's bibliographical introduction, where also is finally dispelled the honoured tradition that between the first and subsequent editions there are important differences of text, over and above the added books. Of the *Arcadia* itself this is hardly the place to say much. It is a delightful book to read a little of, but few persons not under professional obligations can boast that they have read it through. The style is sometimes as charming as in the beautiful dedication to the Countess of Pembroke, sometimes as exasperating as *Euphues* itself. A book with so many faults and so many virtues, demands to be read leisurely and at favourable times. Dr. Sommer and his publishers may therefore be thanked for having placed a very fairly-well executed facsimile within the reach of students.

We have received a copy of *Lupton's Reader's Vade Mecum, designed for the use of members of Free and other Libraries*, third edition, price 1d. (Lupton, Birmingham). This useful publication provides a ready means of keeping a list of books, selected according to the reader's taste, from the general catalogue of the library. It is also useful as a record of books which have been read. We understand it has been officially adopted, and is sold, at the Handsworth Free Library.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Public Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

ABERDEEN.—At a meeting of the Public Library Committee held on July 22nd, Mr. Robertson, the librarian, read a letter which he had received from the Town Clerk announcing that in regard to the application for the purposes of technical education of part of the Residue Grant received by the Council last year under the Local Taxation

(Customs and Excise) Act, 1890, the Council had resolved to apply the part in question (£526 10s.) for the purposes of technical instruction, and had allocated the sum of £141 10s. to the Public Library for works of technical literature. Mr. Robertson stated that he had been requested to draw up a list of technical literature. He had done so, and the list had been approved by the Town Council. The Lord Provost then announced that Mr. Carnegie kindly offered to give £500 and Mrs. Carnegie £500 on condition that they found the other £1000 to pay off the Library debt.

ALTRINCHAM, CHESHIRE.—The opening ceremony in connection with the new Free Library at Altrincham took place on October 1st. Pending the enlargement of the Literary Institution, the Free Library will be housed in the Altrincham Building Society's rooms, which have been specially fitted for the purpose, and the shelves contain nearly 5,000 volumes, while there are spacious reading-rooms well provided with newspapers and periodicals. The work of selection has been carried out under the auspices of a committee, assisted by Mr. Alexander Ireland and Mr. Sutton (Manchester Free Library). The members of the Local Board, Free Library Committee, and public officials and inhabitants met at the Literary Institution and walked in procession to the Building Society's rooms. Here the chair was taken by Mr. John Newton (chairman of the Free Library Committee), who was supported by Mr. George Milner, Mr. George Bowen (chairman of the Altrincham Local Board), the Ven. Archdeacon Gore (vicar of Bowdon), the Rev. Dr. Mackennal, the Rev. J. E. Odgers, Mr. R. H. Joynson, Mr. T. W. Killick, &c. The Chairman, in his opening remarks, gave a history of the movement, and said it was intended to enlarge the Literary Institution to more than double its present size. They had received valuable presents from Mr. T. W. Killick, Mr. T. C. Abbott, Mr. Maxwell Roscoe, &c. He hoped also that they would, through the medium of the Mayor's Land Charity, be able to carry on the work without expense to the ratepayers. Mr. George Milner delivered an admirable address on the free library movement, and gave some valuable advice on the subject of reading and the selection of books. The Ven. Archdeacon Gore, Mr. R. H. Joynson, Dr. Mackennal, Mr. George Bowen and others made speeches of congratulation, and the Library was declared open, Mr. George Milner, who was specially thanked for his address, taking out the first book. In the evening Mr. Newton entertained a party to dinner at the Town Hall.

ASTON MANOR.—Another series of popular lectures in connection with the public library is now being arranged, some of which will be given by provincial librarians.

AYR.—On June 1st, the annual general meeting of the subscribers to the Ayr Public Library took place. It was unanimously resolved to hand over the books and property belonging to the Ayr Public Library, to the custody of the Carnegie Public Library Committee. This library will be opened in September. Excluding furnishings, the cost will be £9529. Stained glass is to be put in the window of the principal staircase, at a cost of £60. The assessment for the year was £450.

BARRY AND CADOXTON.—The Barry and Cadoxton Public Libraries Committee, July 20th, have resolved to take a room in the house of Mr. H. L. Jones, registrar, Holton Road, Barry Dock, for the purposes of a

lending library. Mr. E. F. Blackmore has been appointed librarian, and his duties will include the supervision of the three public reading-rooms at Barry, Barry Dock, and Cadoxton.

BIRMINGHAM.—On June 5th, the Mayor of Birmingham (Mr. Lawley Parker) formally opened the new Branch Free Library, in Saltley Road.

BOOTLE.—We have received a prospectus of the lectures and classes of the Technical School which has been established in connection with the Bootle Free Public Library, and which are most successfully organized by the energetic librarian, Mr. Ogle. There is nothing amateurish about the document before us, for it has evidently been prepared by men of practical experience, and no subject has been overlooked that could conceivably be brought within the legitimate scope of such an institution. The list of subjects is almost a syllabus, and under each heading is given a brief, but comprehensive description of the lines of study to be pursued.

The list of Scholarships, Exhibitions, and Prizes would put many a pretentious foundation to shame, for excluding Whitworth Scholarships of £125 per annum for three years, the authorities offer Scholarships, ranging from £60 per annum for three years downwards, as well as a multitude of prizes in money and books, that must exercise a most encouraging influence on the ambitious youth of Bootle. It is noteworthy that the course includes cookery.

CARLTON, NOTTS.—Mr. Godfrey, the first librarian of the Free Public Lending Library and Reading Room at this Nottingham suburb having resigned, Mr. John Hopkinson has been appointed to succeed him.

CROYDON.—On June 6th, the foundation stone of the new Municipal Buildings was laid by the Mayor of Croydon (Mr. F. T. Edridge), in the presence of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London. This building will contain the central public library.

GRAVESEND.—The result of the poll on the question of the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts is declared as follows :—For, 1,295 ; against, 369 ; blank and spoilt voting papers, 1,843.

HORSHAM : SUSSEX.—The movement to establish a Shelley Library and Museum here, in the place where the poet was born a century ago, will probably be a failure. The idea, which was mooted a couple of months ago at the Shelley Centenary, met with the cordial encouragement of such men as Tennyson, Lord Coleridge, the Bishop of Ripon, Mr. Leslie Stephen, Mr. Andrew Lang and Archdeacon Farrar. But subscriptions are coming in very slowly indeed, and unless they show more briskness any permanent memorial of the poet will fall through. Locally, cold water is being thrown on the scheme by a large landed proprietor, who is doing all he can to prevent any museum or library being erected in Horsham.

ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE.—There is a movement on foot here for promoting the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts. The subject was brought before the inhabitants through a letter in the local newspapers, which was written, we believe, by Mr. Briscoe, of Nottingham, who, in the same way, caused the establishment of a public library at Mansfield—a neighbouring Nottinghamshire town.

LEIGH : LANCASHIRE.—On the morning of Monday, July 25th, the ceremony of cutting the first sod for the erection of a technical school and public library at Leigh was performed by Mr. James Ward, headmaster of the Leigh Grammar School and secretary of the Leigh Literary Society. The foundation stone was laid on Saturday, September 10th, by the Hon. John Powys, eldest son of the Right Hon. Lord Lilford, lord of the manor of Leigh. The building is to be erected in Railway Road, a very suitable site of the value of £500 having been given by Mr. John Walmsley, of Lucknam Park, near Bath. The building is to cost £10,000, towards which £5,383 has already been raised in subscriptions, including :—Trustees of Francis Charity, Leigh, £1,000 ; Lord Lilford, £500 ; Mrs. W. C. Jones, £300 ; and Mr. John Speakman, Bedford Colliery, £250. In addition to these the Local Board have promised £4,000 and the Science and Art Classes £500. A building grant is also expected from the County Council. There is yet to be raised £3,500. The Ratepayers have adopted the Public Libraries Acts by 2,021 votes against 199.

LONDON : CHELSEA.—The Public Libraries Commissioners have passed votes of thanks to the Library Association for promoting and obtaining the Libraries Act, 1892, and to Sir John Lubbock and Lord Thring for securing its adoption. Structural alterations have been made in the Kensal Town Library to allow the addition of a boys' room, and this room was opened for the first time on the 4th August. A similar room in the home part of Chelsea has proved a great success.

LONDON : FULHAM.—There is to be a course of library lectures delivered here during the coming season.

LONDON : KILBURN.—The design for the new Public Library at Kilburn, submitted to the Willesden Local Board by Mr. Gabriel, of 42, Old Broad Street, has been selected from among those of several competitors.

LONDON : NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB.—Mr. F. G. Hailey has been appointed assistant at the Gladstone Library.

LONDON : PADDINGTON.—Mr. F. D. Mocatta has presented the Free Public Library with a second donation of £20 for the current year.

MANCHESTER.—A very useful "Occasional List" has just been issued from the Public Free Libraries. It is the fourth of the series, and is devoted to "selected books on technical subjects," the topics ranging from Ornamental Art to Workshop Management. The list will be of practical service to students who desire to supplement class work by familiarity with at least a portion of the literature of the subjects to which they are devoting themselves.

Mr. Samuel J. Smith, one of the Local Government Board inspectors, held an inquiry on September 20th, in the Manchester Town Hall, relative to the application of the City Council to the Local Government Board for sanction to borrow £6,000 for the purchase of land and the erection thereon of a public library at Gorton. Councillor Harry Rawson, deputy-chairman of the Free Libraries Committee, said the designs of the free library had been selected from a number sent in for competition, and seven tenders for the erection had been received. The site had been purchased at a cost of £700. A library rate of 2d. in the pound could be laid in the city, but the expenditure of the committee was

very much below the amount of a rate of 2d., and after they had provided for interest and sinking fund on the proposed building it would still be below that amount. A rate of 2d. in the pound would produce £21,577. The expenditure last year was £14,233 13s. 2d., and the estimate for the coming year was £15,182. The provision of a free library was one of the conditions on which Gorton was amalgamated with the city in 1890. There was no opposition to the application, and the inspector will report in due course.

CHETHAM'S LIBRARY.—Oxford men have long known that the late Mr. Richard Lewis Nettleship contemplated writing an exhaustive history of Southern Italy, and had formed a considerable collection of books on the subject. These, numbering some 250, have lately been purchased *en bloc* by the feoffees of Chetham's Library. Of course the collection is far from being a complete one, but it includes most of the best Italian and some of the French and German authorities on the topic it is intended to illustrate; as, for example, Schulz's "*Denkmaeler der Kunst des Mittelalters in Unteritalien*," and several of the publications of the "*Societa Napoletana di Storia Patria*."

OWENS COLLEGE.—The Principal of Owens College has received the following letter from the legatees of the late Sir Joseph Whitworth:—

"To A. W. WARD, Esq., LL.D., Owens College.

"DEAR DR. WARD,—It was lately brought to our knowledge that the library of the late Professor Freeman was to be sold, and that, from its special character as perhaps the best private historical library in England, it would be a valuable acquisition to Owens College and of real use to the students and professors there. We learn that you have been able to negotiate the purchase for a sum of £800, and we have much pleasure in enclosing a cheque for the money for the purpose of completing it. In making this gift, however, we desire to stipulate—

"1. That a catalogue of the library be prepared by some competent person and printed. We shall be happy to pay the expense of the preparation and the printing of this work.

"2. That the books shall be known as forming 'The Freeman Library,' and be kept so far distinct from the general library of the College that each volume may always be identified by an appropriate book-plate indicating the association of Professor Freeman's books with the donation in memory of Sir Joseph Whitworth.

"3. That these books shall be made accessible for purposes of study to all historical students, whether members of the College or not, subject, of course, to such regulations as the College may from time to time think necessary or expedient.

"We remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

"M. L. WHITWORTH,	{	The Legatees of the late Sir Joseph Whitworth.
"RICHD. C. CHRISTIE,		
"R. D. DARBISHIRE		

"*Stancliffe, July, 1892.*"

The gift has been accepted by the College, and Mr. James Tait, M.A., is engaged in cataloguing the books.

NOTTINGHAM.—The Committee of the Nottingham Free Public Libraries, encouraged by the popularity of Mr. Briscoe's scheme of "Half Hour's Talks with the People about Books and Bookwriters," have unanimously asked their librarian to arrange for the delivery of a third season's "Talks." This idea ought to spread throughout the country. The system of dividing valuable books of design for circulation, as

practised at Paris, will shortly be adopted here as an experiment. The library will co-operate in the working of supplementing the B. M. catalogue of English works printed before 1640. The annual meeting of the North Midland Library Association will be held here on October 6th.

SALISBURY.—We are indebted to a correspondent for the following note: "As a public institution the Salisbury Public Library must rank locally of first importance. We get an average daily attendance of about 300 readers and borrowers, and notwithstanding the opposition which assailed the movement at its outset, public opinion is coming round to the very point that the promoters originally anticipated. It is undoubtedly a boon to many of those who want to search the advertisements of the morning papers, and best of all to the youth of both sexes who keenly take advantage of the Lending Department of the Library. The arrangements of the building have been improved, and under the care of the Librarian the Library will certainly not suffer. Readers and borrowers alike receive every attention, and if the shelves are not so full as one could wish, the utmost is made of the material at command. There are 1,250 borrowers on the register, and 1,600 books in the Library. Donations of books reach the Library occasionally, a recent grant of £25 worth of books having been received from the Clarendon Press.

SWANSEA.—A branch of the Swansea Public Library was recently opened by Alderman Chapman at the Public Hall, Treboeth. Sir John Llewelyn, who was present, said that the total cost of the hall was about £1,000, and only a debt of a few pounds remained. He felt sure that they would never be able to measure the amount of social good that the hall was capable of doing by the amount of money spent upon it. He then gave a description of the working of the public library at Swansea, and drew attention to the favourable position in which they were placed compared with the years gone by. He complimented the public library committee on their generosity and the local committee on their assiduity, and expressed, in conclusion, a hope that the literature used by the people of the district would be for self-improvement. Mr. Deffett Francis and the Rev. Isaac Thomas having delivered short addresses, the meeting terminated.

THURSO.—In the *Dundee Advertiser* of June 4th, is a sketch of the Thurso Town Hall, in which is located the Thurso Public Library. The income of the Library is £40 per annum!

WATERLOO-WITH-SEAFORTH.—At the monthly meeting of the Local Board, held on Sept. 5th, "The chairman announced that the poll of the district on the adoption of the Libraries Acts had been taken, and in reply to the question as to whether the Acts should be adopted or not 796 voters had said 'Yes' and 239 'No.' There were 109 invalid voting papers. One half of the voters had not put in their voting papers. . . . The total cost of the poll amounted to £11 14s. 6d." The poll was taken on the 1st of September.

WEST HAM.—Mr. W. H. Bagguley, Senior Assistant at the Wimbledon Public Library, has been appointed Sub-Librarian to the Public Libraries, Borough of West Ham.

INDIA: BARODA.—The first free library in a native state in India was recently opened at Baroda, where the brother of the Maharaja Gaikwar, Shrimant Sampatrao Gaikwad, has founded a free library, which he has named the Shri Sayaji, in honour of the present ruler.

Library Catalogues.

Catalogue of the Books in the Wimbledon Free Public Library;
compiled by T. H. Rabbitt. 2nd edition. Small 8vo. 1892.
Brevier, across page, first word in "Latin." Price, 6d.

Mr. Longstaff's "Notes," reviewed in a recent number, forms an admirable and useful preface. The catalogue itself is a fair specimen of the title-a-line style, but it possesses a number of points not altogether to be commended. The form-entry, "Primers," covers a group of elementary manuals on varying subjects, as well as the series of Science, History, and Literature Primers. These last would be much more serviceable under Science, History and Literature respectively; and the others are well enough placed under their particular subjects without this superfluous heading, besides it is not followed out with any degree of uniformity, or else the Text-books of Science ought to come with any books bearing the word "text-book" upon their titles under that heading, whereas they do not. Again, there is a heading, "Technical Works." What are technical works? In this case it includes a selection upon subjects as remote from each other as bookbinding and sea-fishing, ornament and cotton-culture, &c., and then does not take in a tithe of the technical works in the library. Such a division would find its right place in a class catalogue, and then, to prove really useful, ought to be sub-divided under such headings as "Building," "Engineering," &c.

We observe here a far too common error in cataloguing, viz., the placing of canonized persons under "Saint," instead of under their names. There is as much justification for the adoption of this course as there would be for placing names under "Earl," "Sir," or even "Mr.," and the result is about as satisfactory, and is the occasion of the Duc de Saint-Simon becoming "St. Simon." All the rules are very clear upon this point, and it can only be excused upon the ground that many people instinctively turn to "St." for the names of Apostles, &c., but the catalogue ought to put them right. There are other trifling faults of compilation, but none of a more important character, and we merely direct attention to those noted above as being somewhat prevalent in cataloguing. On the whole, Mr. Rabbitt's catalogue is a creditable and useful compilation.

Catalogue of the British Library, Cockspur Street, Charing Cross
(Cawthorn and Hutt); compiled by Joseph Gilburt, Librarian.
8vo, 1891, pp. 399. ¼ bound, price 3s. 6d.

The catalogue of the average subscription library does not ordinarily, from the nature of things, possess many points of special interest, but this is not only of unusual interest, but likely to be particularly useful. The arrangement is: (a) author-entry of works other than prose fiction, (b) pseudonyms of authors whose works are in the catalogue, (c) an excellent subject-index by authors, (d) fiction title-entries, and (e) fiction author-entry, with the works arranged in order of production. Two features render this a most desirable hand-book to those engaged in the formation of libraries. The one is, that the price on publication is given of nearly every book contained in it, and the other—and that an important one—is that as the British Library, after the manner of its kind, regularly disposes of its ephemeral literature, so it is evident that all, or nearly all, of the books here catalogued are desirable, if not absolutely necessary, in a library of any pretence, and are, moreover, in regular request. If it is found convenient for the class that forms the customers of the British

Library to place works under the pseudonyms of their authors, how much more is it necessary in the case of libraries used by all classes? Mr. Gilbert's adoption of this course, is, in our opinion, a very strong argument in favour of its adoption for all but academic catalogues. We were under the impression that this was the first catalogue we had met wholly free from error, until upon the last page we found Mr. Gilbert's list of errata, small in number. The brief preface is crammed with a collection of interesting facts relating to subscription libraries from early ages, and from this we learn that the British Library, founded in the Strand in 1740, was the first circulating library established in London under the present system, and, of course, as Mr. Gilbert adds, "the oldest now remaining." Altogether this is an excellent piece of work, and it is neatly got up.

Catalogue of the Printed Books in the Library of the Incorporated Law Society, by Frederic Boase, Librarian. 1891. Royal 8vo, pp. iv., 1084.

The Library of the Incorporated Law Society consists of a great deal more than a mere collection of works of legal reference; and not only is it rich in the costly county histories, and in topography generally, but it possesses books of wider interest, and, therefore, this fine catalogue, owing to the fulness of its entries, as well as to its excellent and exact compilation, is of much importance as a work of bibliographical reference. It is also well printed and handsomely produced. A catalogue of the Mendham collection of liturgies, missals, and breviaries, and of rare works of theological controversy is not included, as it is printed separately.

Wigan Public Library, Reference Department: Works relating to Freemasonry, catalogued by H. T. Folkard. 3rd edition. Small 8vo, Wigan, 1892, pp. 64. Privately printed.

An interesting brochure, not only to the members of the craft for whom it is prepared, but to any interested in the history of religions, as it contains the titles of a number of curious works upon early cults.

Catalogue, Pratt Institute, 1892-93. Brooklyn, N.Y.

This "catalogue" is an elaborately prepared syllabus of the classes of a flourishing institution of the kind better known here as a "Polytechnic," and among the varied subjects in which training is given, we find practical librarianship holds a prominent position. The "Department of Libraries" is under the directorship of Margaret Healy and a staff of other ladies, and here systematic instruction is given in all branches of library work, from the registration of borrowers to typewriting and the care of statistics (quite a science in itself!) to bibliography—the cataloguing receives particular attention, and is taught in a special class. There is little doubt that if similar classes were formed anywhere in London a growing demand, among ladies principally, would be met.

Letters to the Editor.

THE GENEVA FOLIO BIBLE, 1616.

DEAR SIR,—I have a Bible printed in roman letter by Robert Barker, London, 1616. The pagination is by sheets on the right hand pages, the left hand pages not being numbered. The signatures are A, A2, A3, on sheets paged 1, 2, 3—B, B2, B3, on 7, 8, 9—etc. I suppose it to be a

folio from the style of pagination, and from the wire mark in the paper being vertical, and the paper mark in the centre of the page. Could you give me the collation of this edition, as the title pages are wanting in my copy. The dimensions of the printed matter on each page are $11\frac{3}{8}'' \times 7\frac{1}{8}''$.

C.

NOTE.—We are indebted to Mr. J. R. Dore, of Huddersfield (author of *Old Bibles*, Eyre and Spottiswoode) for the following note :—EDITOR.

"This is the well-known last English printed edition in folio of the Geneva Bible. I have 2 or 3 copies of it, and could make C.'s book perfect if he wishes. I send you the

COLLATION.

Book of C. P. (James, Queen Anne, Prince Charles Fredericke, the Prince Elector Palatine, and Lady Elizabeth, his wife).
 Psalms—Speed's Genealogies with large map 38 pages.
 Title page A₁—To the Christian reader A₂.
 'Here is the spring' A₂. 'The names and order of all the Bookes' A₂.
 Genesis B₁. Map of 'The Situation' B₂.
 O. T. ends on recto of 0008.
 Apocrypha begins on Ppp., fol. 361.
 N. T. title page Ffff₁.
 The printer to the diligent reader Ffff₂, verso Map of H. Land.
 S. Matthew begins on Ffff₂, fol. 3. Rev. ends Eeeee 3 verso.
 The first table 4 pages. 2 table 8 pp. unsigned.
 Imprint at end '¶ Imprinted at London by Robert Barker, printer to the Kings most excellent Maiestie, 1616.'

J. R. D.

THE WORLD'S CONGRESS AUXILIARY OF THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.—THE WOMEN'S BRANCH.

CHICAGO, U.S.A.,

August 2nd, 1892.

DEAR SIR,—As a member of the Woman's Committee on libraries for the literary congress of 1893, in Chicago, I am endeavouring to obtain knowledge of English and Scottish women engaged in library work, with the object of securing their interest in the international congress of librarians then to be held, and of inducing the attendance of as many as possible. Can you, as Secretary of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, supply me the names and addresses of any women librarians or noteworthy library assistants? Any information or suggestions you can give me will be very gratefully appreciated.

MARY J. CRANDALL.

The Newberry Library, Chicago.

NOTE.—We shall be glad to forward the list asked for if each woman librarian or library assistant will send us a post card bearing (1) her name and style, (2) her status, and (3) full address.—EDITOR.

A SUMMONS TO CHICAGO.

MY DEAR MACALISTER.—I am tied here this summer with pressure of work, and must be within telegraphing distance of the office. Mr. Davidson, who has been assistant secretary of the A.L.A. for many years, with his wife will be our delegates this year, with, I hope, some of our other members.

Stir your people up sharply in regard to coming to the Chicago meeting. You ought to send a big delegation. It amuses us to see how fearful the Englishmen are of the sea. The people that come surely won't regret it, and a few of you who can be relied on must head the list with the unqualified statement that you are coming whether or no, and then call for recruits. I started out in 1877 all alone, and was laughed at for suggesting that I could get four or five others, and yet we had 22 Americans without any attraction of a world's fair. You ought to bring 50 people to Chicago.

Give my warmest regards to all the old friends. Their faces come up to me almost as vividly as those of our own American librarians, and I feel all the while that in the great work we are undertaking in common they are brothers, simply living beyond the sea. We shall know and like each other better if you will come over and see us in our native wilds.

Yours very truly,

MELVIL DEWEY.

A LIST OF BRITISH LIBRARIES.

DEAR SIR,—Hitherto there has been no very complete list of the public libraries of this country issued in any form, and though the Library Association can claim to have published some materials for such a list, it has not done anything otherwise. It is perhaps the only piece of work which has never been mentioned as coming within the scope of the Association, and yet it is one which is certainly more germane to the objects enumerated in our constitution than many another scheme which has found acceptance. Probably the very simplicity of the notion barred its discussion, while the universal want of spare time which dogs librarians, whenever there is any extra work to be done, may have helped to hinder its execution. I am desirous for the credit of the Association of compiling such a list, on the model of that which appears in the last edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*; and as I happen to have a private catalogue already in progress, very little additional matter will suffice to make a list which, if not complete, would be at least valuable as a foundation for future revision. I should accordingly be obliged to all in possession of information concerning local libraries, to forward the following particulars to me:—**Place—name of institution—date of establishment—No. of vols. at latest count—Reference to a printed account of the library if any exists—and, Whether or no a printed catalogue is issued.** Our American cousins as usual are before us in this matter, having issued some time ago under Government authority a list of libraries having over 300 vols. To this length I do not propose to go, but see no reason why a list of every important public (*i.e.*, rate supported), college, parochial, subscription, mechanics', endowed, proprietary, or other library should not be issued by this Association. No information concerning libraries under the Libraries Acts, nor those named in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* article need be sent in, as I propose to obtain it by other means, but any local

library not established for private profit should be mentioned, if in possession of 1,000 vols. or over. There are many such libraries all over the kingdom, some of them very old and valuable ; others of them large and doing vigorous work. I know of some which have never been included in any list with which I am acquainted, but which are nevertheless just as important as many of those honoured by mention. I shall be grateful for any assistance in this matter, and trust I shall receive a ready response to this appeal.

JAMES D. BROWN.

Public Library, Clerkenwell, London, E.C.

NOTE.—The Council of the L.A.U.K. a few months ago authorized their Hon. Sec. to collect information relating to Village Libraries, and this, with the help of energetic local workers, is being done. Returns from all the Public Libraries have also been obtained, and are being prepared for publication. These, with Mr. Brown's proposed list, will provide a complete list of all the libraries in the kingdom.—EDITOR.

The Library Association Year Book, 1892.

Each Member of the Library Association will receive with this number a copy of the new edition of the *Year Book*, free. Since it was printed a new Council has been elected, and some of the laws have been altered. A list of the corrections rendered necessary by these changes will be given in our next issue.



Editorial Communications and Books for Review should be addressed to the Editor.
Advertisements and letters on Business to the Publisher, 20, Hanover Square, W.

Library Association of the United Kingdom.

20, HANOVER SQUARE, W.

THE Library Association of the United Kingdom was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the International Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of the late Mr. J. Winter Jones, then Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its objects are (a) to encourage and aid the establishment of new libraries; (b) to endeavour to secure better legislation for free public libraries; (c) to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, for the purpose of promoting the best possible administration of libraries; and (d) to encourage bibliographical research.

The Association has, by the invitation of the local authorities, held its Annual Meetings in the following towns:—Oxford, 1878; Manchester, 1879; Edinburgh, 1880; London, 1881; Cambridge, 1882; Liverpool, 1883; Dublin, 1884; Plymouth, 1885; London, 1886; Birmingham, 1887; Glasgow, 1888; London, 1889; Reading, 1890; Nottingham, 1891; Paris, 1892.

The official organ of the Association is *The Library*, which is issued monthly and sent post free to members. In its pages appear the papers read at Annual and Monthly Meetings, and a report of the Proceedings of the Association.

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Annual Subscription is One Guinea, payable in advance, on January 1st. The Life Subscription is Fifteen Guineas. *Any person actually engaged in Library administration may become a member, without election, on payment of the Subscription to the Treasurer* (Mr. H. Tedder, Athenæum, Pall Mall, S.W.). Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants, approved by the Council, are admitted on payment of a Subscription of Half-a-Guinea.

The Association has instituted an Examination for Library Assistants, Librarians, and others, and issues certificates to those who satisfy the examiners. (See *Year Book*, pp. 13-20.)

The Association has published a large number of interesting and important papers on all branches of library work. A complete list of these will be found in the *Year Book*.

The Hon. Secretary will be glad to receive papers on appropriate subjects for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.

The Library Association Year Book (post free 1s.) contains full information on every department of the Association's work, and includes the L.A.U.K. Cataloguing Rules, Syllabuses of Examinations with specimen papers of questions, List of Members with their addresses, &c., &c.

It can be obtained from Mr. Stott, 370, Oxford Street, W.

The National Library of France.*

(BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE.)

THE National Library, styled before the French Revolution "la Bibliothèque du Roi," then, according to the various changes in government, "la Bibliothèque nationale," "la Bibliothèque impériale," "la Bibliothèque royale," and now again "la Bibliothèque nationale," has its remote origin in the collections of books which the French Kings possessed for their own use. No exact date can be assigned for its foundation. The first large collection of books was made by King Charles V. (1364-1380), who located them in a tower of the Louvre and appointed a librarian for their custody; but his successors let them be stolen, given away, or sold (the main part of them being purchased by the Duke of Bedford, in 1425), so that, of 1200 volumes it contained, less than 80 are now extant, and these are scattered all over Europe: M. Delisle has been able to trace them to their present abode, with the help of a catalogue that was compiled by the librarian, Gilles Malet, in 1373, and the original of which is now preserved in the National Library. Among more modern kings, Charles VIII. (1483-1500), Lewis XII. (1500-1515) and Francis I. (1515-1547) made most effectual efforts to collect numerous and valuable books; the last named established the Library in the royal palace at Fontainebleau, where it soon became celebrated. They took care that printed books, as well as manuscripts, were added to the collections. From their time the present Library may be said to have been in existence, for most of their books, unlike those formerly owned by Charles V., are to this day to be found on the shelves of the Bibliothèque nationale. Under Charles IX. (1560-1574), the Library was brought to Paris; in 1666, Colbert established it in his house in the Rue Vivienne, and in the eighteenth century it was removed to the palace of Mazarin, the very

* Read at the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Paris, September, 1892.

spot where it now is. In the present century several parts of the house have been rebuilt, under the superintendence of the late M. Labrousse and of his successor, the present architect, M. Pascal. The work of building is not finished. Extensive premises have been, of late years, purchased by the government, with a view to enlarging the Library, an enlargement much needed indeed.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the increase of the collections, as regards manuscripts, prints and medals, was mainly due to several very important donations and purchases, while printed volumes were obtained from the printers as a condition for the license ("privilège du Roi") without which no book could be published. During the Revolution a considerable number, both of manuscripts and printed books, were added as a consequence of the confiscation of the property of suppressed convents and churches, condemned royalists, *émigrés*, &c.

The Library now derives its increase from three sources, which are, in the order of their importance: 1. the "Dépôt légal," *i.e.*, free copies delivered, in obedience to law, by printers and engravers, of books, newspapers or prints issued by them; 2. purchases, by means of the government's yearly grants; and 3. donations, either from private individuals or from governments, institutions, societies, &c.

The organization of the National Library has been subject to numerous and frequent changes. The present organization was established by a "décret du Président de la République" (then M. Jules Grévy), dated 1885, June 17. The Library consists of four departments, viz.:—

1. "Département des Imprimés, Cartes et Collections géographiques" (*i.e.*, printed books and maps);
2. "Département des Manuscrits, Chartes et Diplômes" (manuscripts and charters);
3. "Département des Médailles, Pierres gravées et Antiques" (medals, gems, &c.);
4. "Département des Estampes" (prints or engravings).

The Staff is at present as follows:—

	SALARIES.	
	French money.	British money.
One "Administrateur général" ...	15,000 fr.	£600
One "Secrétaire-Trésorier," with the rank of a "Conservateur-adjoint"	7,000 fr.	£280

		SALARIES.	
		French money.	British money.
Four "Conservateurs," each...	...	10,000 fr.	£400
Six "Conservateurs-adjoints," each ...	...	7,000 fr.	£280
About fifty "Bibliothécaires," "Sous-Bibliothécaires," and "Stagiaires,"			
from ...	...	1,800 fr.	£72
to ...	...	6,000 fr.	£240

Each Conservateur has the control of one of the four departments. The Conservateur of Printed Books has five Conservateurs-adjoints to assist him, and the Conservateur of Medals has one; there are at present no Adjoints for Manuscripts and Prints. The various officials (Bibliothécaires, Sous-Bibliothécaires, Stagiaires) are distributed between the departments, the largest number being assigned to the Département of Printed Books. The Secrétariat, consisting of the Secrétaire-Trésorier and some officials, belongs to the whole Library and is independent of the four departments; the Secretary acts under immediate control of the Administrateur général. The Administrateur général is appointed by the President of the Republic, upon the recommendation of the Minister of Public Instruction; the rest of the staff are appointed by the Minister. It is customary, but not compulsory, to choose the Conservateurs and Conservateurs-adjoints from the Bibliothécaires, and these from the Sous-Bibliothécaires; the Sous-Bibliothécaires must be chosen from the Stagiaires, who have to undergo an examination before they can be promoted to that rank. No one can be appointed Stagiaire (*i.e.*, probationer), if he has not had classical or scientific education, or if over thirty years of age.

In addition to the regular staff, there are Attachés, whose work is paid by the day. They have no regular appointment; the Administrateur général can employ them and dismiss them at pleasure. Young men wishing to enter the Library service are generally required to serve for some time as Attachés, before they are proposed to the Minister for Stagiaires.

Besides the educated officials, there are "Commis," with a salary of 1,600 fr. (£64) and upwards, and "Hommes de Service," with 1,100 fr. (£44) and upwards. The "Hommes de Service" are merely Attendants; they are invariably chosen among pensioned soldiers or non-commissioned officers, the military career being considered the best training for punctual and disciplined service. The "Commis" are a peculiar

feature of the National Library; they are chosen among the attendants who have served as such for some years, and whose work has been found most satisfactory; they are then employed for more intellectual work, and form a class intermediate, as it were, between officials and attendants. They prove, as a rule, excellent servants, both useful and cheap; their mind is not turned away from duty by literary or scientific occupation; they are thankful for the honour conferred upon them, and they make up by zeal and attention what they may lack in the matter of education.

The Department of Printed Books is by far the most important of the four. It has two reading-rooms; the "Salle publique" and the "Salle de Travail." The former is open to all persons over sixteen years of age, but they can have access there only to a limited number of books, about 25,000 volumes, chosen among those deemed to be mostly read by the public at large; it is, as it were, a library of its own, and a popular one, quite different in character from the rest of the National Library. In the "Salle de Travail" readers are only admitted with a ticket delivered at the Secretary's office, upon written application to the *Administrateur général*; foreigners applying for tickets are requested to show a letter of introduction from the ambassador of their country. The number of seats in that room is 328. Readers there may write for and read any printed book that exists in the department. Both rooms are open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. between October 16th and February 14th; from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. between September 16th and October 15th and between February 15th and March 31st; from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. between April 1st and September 15th; both may be occasionally closed even before 4 p.m. on dark winter days, no lights being allowed under any pretence. The "Salle de Travail" is closed on Sundays, on day of "fêtes légales" and during the fortnight before Easter; the "Salle publique" is open on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. all the year round, but is closed on "fêtes légales" and during the week before Easter.

This department possesses probably the largest amount of books to be found in any library of the world. Although no exact figure can be arrived at, the number of volumes is certainly much more than two millions; if duplicates, unbound pamphlets, parts of magazines, &c., are taken into account, it would even be over three millions. A complete catalogue does not exist as yet, but the work is in progress, and the

hope is entertained that it will come to an end within a very few years.

The system of arrangement is, in its main features, as old as the seventeenth century. It was devised under King Lewis XIV., and but slightly altered since that time. The books are distributed into subject-classes, as follows :—

THEOLOGY.

- A. The Bible and its commentaries ; Talmud, &c.
- B. Liturgy and Councils.
- C. Holy Fathers.
- D. Roman Catholic theology.
- D.² Non-Catholic theology.

JURISPRUDENCE.

- E. Canonic law.
- *E. National and international law.
- F. Civil (or secular) law.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

- G. General history and geography.
- H. General Church history.
- J. History of the Greek, the Roman, the Byzantine Empire, and Turkey.
- K. History of Italy.
- L. „ France.
- M. „ Germany and Northern Europe.
- N. „ Great Britain, Ireland, and the British colonies and possessions.
- O. „ Spain and Portugal.
- O.² „ Asia.
- O.³ „ Africa.
- P. „ America.
- P.² „ Oceania.

SCIENCE AND ARTS.

- Q. Bibliography ; libraries.
- R. Philosophy (including morals, politics, science at large, physics, chemistry).
- S. Natural history (and agriculture).
- T. Medical science.
- V. Arts (including technology, mechanic trades, mathematics, and fine arts).
- Vm. Musical works.

LETTERS.

- X. Grammar (study of languages) and rhetorics.
- Y. Poetry and theatre.
- Y.² Novels, or prose fiction.
- Z. Polygraphy, miscellaneous works, correspondences.

Up to the end of last century, all books entering the Library were catalogued and received a press-mark, consisting of class-letter, a number, and more or less other letters or figures in addition ("sous-lettres" and "sous-chiffres.") Books so catalogued are said to be "portés au catalogue" or simply "portés." They are to be found by reference to the old catalogue, consisting of large sheets of paper, one sheet for each author, with all his works entered in succession.

From about the beginning of this century to the appointment of M. Taschereau as Administrateur (1852), cataloguing was much neglected; books were simply marked with the letter of the class they belong to, without any number, and arranged alphabetically on the shelves of that class. No entry of their author and title was written anywhere, and nobody could know whether a book of that period was, or was not, in the Library, save by going to the shelves and trying to find it there. The books so treated, or rather so mishandled, are styled, in the language of the Library servants, "non-portés," or "n.p." M. Taschereau altered that bad situation in two ways: 1. he caused to be prepared and partly printed a new catalogue of classes L (history of France), T (medical science), and N to P² (history of Great Britain, Spain, &c.), wherein all books of those classes, whether formerly "portés" or "non-portés," are entered with exact and definite press-marks; 2. he ordered that books added to the other classes should have their titles entered on cards, and these be arranged alphabetically, so that it might be ascertained whether a book was, or was not, in the Library, and what class it had been put into. But books added to those classes continued to be arranged alphabetically on the shelves without exact press-marks ("non-portés").

This last inconvenience has been amended by M. Taschereau's successor, M. Delisle. Since January 1st, 1876, all books added to the non-catalogued classes (*i.e.*, the classes other than L, F, and N to P²) receive an exact press-mark, consisting of the size, the class-letter and a number. They are numbered in each size of each class, from 1 upwards, according to the order of arrival. The titles are entered on cards, as formerly

practised, but these cards contain, in addition to the title and class-letter, the exact press-mark of each book. The series of books so numbered is called by the Library servants "le nouveau porté" or "le nouvel inventaire."

The work now in progress is calculated to make up for the negligence of past times, by numbering and cataloguing the non-porté books. As the old porté press-marks are often very intricate and not quite practical, it has been decided to include also porté books in that work. Books are not disturbed from their present order, porté books remaining arranged according to old press-marks, non-porté books remaining arranged alphabetically; but all are re-numbered, in that same order, from 1 upwards in each class, and cards are made for all of them, indicating on each card the old press-mark, if any, and the fresh number. Those cards are at present arranged alphabetically for each class separately; when the work is done for all classes, steps will be taken to have them arranged all in one alphabet. This work is called "inventaire;" it includes all porté and non-porté books, but neither nouveau-porté books nor books in classes catalogued since 1852 (L, T, &c.), the numbering of which is, in both cases, definite.

The sheet and card catalogues are for the sole use of the Library officials; the readers have no access to them. The following, on the contrary, are to be found in the Salle de Travail for the readers' use:—

1. Printed catalogues of classes A to E (theology and canonic law) and X to Z (letters), compiled in the eighteenth century, and including only books then extant in those classes: these are arranged systematically, with alphabetical indexes of authors.
2. Printed or lithographed catalogues of classes L (French history), T (medicine), N (British history), and O (Spanish and Portuguese history), compiled within the last forty years, and not including books added since time of compiling; these are arranged systematically; the catalogues of medicine (T) and British history (N) have alphabetical indexes of authors.
3. Abstracts of the Inventaires of classes G (general history) and K (Italian history), including the porté and non-porté books of both classes (but not the nouveau porté, *i.e.*, books added since 1876); these are arranged only in an alphabet of authors (or, for anonymous works, in an alphabet of titles).
4. Two catalogues, on slips, of foreign books added since

1875 and French books added since 1881. The slips are cut from the two "Bulletins mensuels" of new foreign books and new French books, which M. Delisle has caused to be issued by the Library since 1875 and 1881 respectively. They are arranged in two alphabets, *viz.*, authors (or titles for anonymous works), and subjects. The alphabet of subjects, which was begun only ten years ago, was looked upon as a novelty, it being quite different from anything that had been done in the National Library to that time. It has proved very useful, and is much appreciated by the majority of readers.

Readers are requested to use these catalogues as much as possible, and to copy from them the press-marks of the books they write for, to avoid delay and mistakes. However, as no general catalogue exists at present, it cannot be made compulsory to write the press-marks on the tickets, and a great number of books are daily applied for without the applicant even knowing (or being at all able to know) whether the book he wants is in the Library or not. In those cases the librarian in charge at the central bureau, on receiving the ticket, reads the title and makes a guess as to what class the book wanted is likely to belong. He then writes the class-letter on the ticket and sends it, through an attendant, to the Commis in charge of that class in the book-store. Each class is under charge of a Commis, who has to stay all day long in the part of the store where the books of his class are kept, and to acquire as complete a knowledge of it as possible, so as to be able to deliver almost any book without searching in the catalogues. The Commis, on receiving the ticket, fetches the book on the shelves and sends it with the ticket, through a lift, to an attendant who carries it to the bureau. There an official takes up the reader's bulletin personnel (*i.e.*, a blank form given to him on entering the room, on which he had to write his name and the number of his seat), writes on it the press-mark and title of the book, and sends the book to the reader. When the reader has done with a book, he is expected to carry it back himself to the bureau and to see that a die with the word "Rendu" is stamped on his bulletin personnel. To leave the room, he must get back that bulletin and deliver it to the attendant at the door, who will not allow him to go out if all books on it are not marked "Rendu."

Recourse may be had to the catalogues, to look out books for which application has been made, only in cases of special

difficulty, which do not arise as a rule oftener than in the instance, say, of one ticket out of twenty.

The number of readers in the Salle de Travail during the year 1890 was 99,112; the number of books they got by tickets (not including books of reference in the reading room) in the same year was 398,166. From the latter figures it may be seen that the average number of books delivered each day was over 1,300.

Lending books out of the Library is not extensively carried on; it is allowed only to persons who have obtained special leave, and, in all cases, is strictly limited to duplicates or reprints.

The following figures will give an idea of the yearly increase of the Department. In the year 1890 there were added to the shelves:—

- 27,823 French books from the Dépôt légal;
- 4,415 books (chiefly foreign) from purchases;
- 3,595 foreign and French books from donations.

The number of books bound or sewn during the same year was as follows:

Volumes bound by private binders ...	...	...	12,197
„ „ in the Atelier de Reliure within the			
Library	1,134
„ sewn or repaired in same Atelier	12,858

Whole number	26,189
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The yearly grants for this Department are, in round figures:

		French money.	British money.
For purchases	...	80,000 fr.	or £3,200
For bindings	...	25,000 fr.	„ £1,000

The “Section géographique,” or collection of maps, is not a department of its own, but a part of the Department of Printed Books, under the control of the Conservateur of that department. It has, however, a special reading room, which is opened on the same days as the Salle de Travail, but only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. all the year round. There is at present in it an interesting exhibition of old maps of America, some of which belong to the Section, while the rest have been lent by various institutions and private persons in Paris.

The Department of Manuscripts has a splendid reading room, rebuilt a few years ago by M. Pascal, architect to the Library, on the first floor of the house. It is open from 10 to 4.

There are printed catalogues of most parts of the collection, and catalogues of the rest are in progress. No adequate idea can be given of the importance of this department, but a few figures may be quoted to convey a slight view of the mass of manuscript matter accumulated therein. The "fonds français" has 26,484 volumes, the "fonds latin" 18,613, the "fonds grec" 4,613; there are 4,322 manuscripts in the Arabic language, 771 Sanskrit, 1,135 Turkish, &c., &c.; then, extensive collections of charters and records, miscellaneous collections relating to modern history, and last, but not least, a "Cabinet des Titres," containing the papers of the famous D'Hozier, and extensively patronized by those most tenacious bores of librarians, genealogical searchers.

The departments for Prints and for Medals are located, the former near the Salle de Travail of printed books, the latter apart from the rest of the Library, having a separate entrance in the Rue Richelieu, near the Rue des Petits-Champs. Both are open from 10 to 4. Both contain riches invaluable; of their importance the members of the Library Association will be able to form a better judgment by visiting them than from any description. The collections are partly those of the French kings during the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, partly the result of purchases and donations. Among the latest should be mentioned the magnificent present made by the Duc de Luynes to the Department of Medals in 1862, consisting of his collection of ancient coins, the richest that was ever given to any public establishment by a private individual.

A number of objects from all Departments in the Library, such as early printed books, specimens of fine bindings, illuminated manuscripts, autograph letters, prints, medals, ancient gems, &c., have been selected for exhibition within the Library. They are all arranged in glass cases and labelled. The exhibition rooms are open to the public at large all the year round, every Tuesday and Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

An Atelier de Photographie has been added to the Library a few years since, where persons wishing to have a true copy of any book, manuscript, or print, may have it photographed at their cost, by a photographer of their own choice: The Library has or recommends no special photographer, but simply allows the use of the Atelier and takes care that no harm be done to the objects sent there for reproduction. The usefulness of this installation may be appreciated by the fact that

applicants for photographing have often to wait some time before a day can be appointed to them for their work, the use of the Atelier being bespoken by previous applicants some time in advance.

The yearly grants for the whole Library (including those already mentioned for the Department of Printed Books) are, in round figures, as follows :

	French money.	British money.
Salaries	436,000 fr.	or £17,440
Cataloguing expenses	80,000 fr.	„ £3,200
Other expenses (including purchases, bindings, heating, furniture, &c.)	272,000 fr.	„ £10,880

JULIEN HAVET.



The Public Free Libraries of Manchester: their History, Organization and Work.*

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I have chosen to speak to you on the Public Free Libraries of my native city, partly because, during an official connection with them of many years, I have felt the deepest interest in their progress and development ; partly because I think it possible that the extent of their operations is but imperfectly known even in our own country ; but principally in the hope that, to our gracious and honoured hosts, my statements may present the attractions of a comparatively unfamiliar, yet interesting subject.

In the preparation of my paper I have been materially assisted by my friends Mr. Sutton, our Chief Librarian, and Mr. Credland, the Deputy-Chief Librarian, to whom my grateful acknowledgments are due.

Half-a-century ago the provision of libraries for public use in England was exceedingly scanty. The quality of the books was also but inferior. Of course I exempt from this statement such libraries for reference as those of the British Museum, the Manchester Chetham Library of 1653, the Universities, and some public educational institutions. But, for books to be read at their own firesides, the majority of the working classes were mainly dependent on the only popular agency termed "the circulating Library," from which they were supplied, for three or four days' reading, at a charge of one penny to two-pence per volume. Novels of more or less merit, in a half-worn condition, and a selection of biographies and travels, often gathered from the miscellaneous sweepings of book-stalls, formed the bulk of these unsatisfactory collections. Some improvements in quality became available when Sunday Schools began to add libraries to their other agencies of religion and education.

It was to provide an ampler supply of literature for the people—of high quality, and easily obtainable—that Mr. William

* Read at the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Paris, September, 1892.

Ewart, Member of Parliament for Dumfries, introduced into the House of Commons, in the year 1849, a "Bill for enabling Town Councils to establish Public Libraries and Museums." The powers to be granted were permissive, not compulsory, and a rate of only one halfpenny in the pound on the assessment was to be levied. Even of this limited sum, however, nothing was to be expended in books; they were to be provided, partly from gifts of money by enlightened and generous citizens, and partly by contributions of books, with the mixed motive of clearing crowded shelves of their least valuable contents, and of manifesting an interest in a valuable movement.

The Bill became an Act of Parliament in August, 1850, and, almost immediately, a number of energetic citizens in Manchester determined to put its provisions into force. With the united aid of Sir John Potter (Mayor of the city), Dr. John Watts, Mr. John Leigh, and other enlightened friends of popular education, a sum of £13,000 was soon collected; a building in Campfield was secured; 18,000 books were purchased; and in 1852, the Free Libraries Act was adopted by the ratepayers. A Reference Library was provided on the upper, and a Lending Library on the lower floor.

The first year's work proved that it would speedily become a most successful and popular institution. In the Reference Department, 61,080 volumes were consulted, and from the lending-room 77,232 were taken to their homes by borrowers. At this time, less than one-half of the rising generation were under adequate school instruction. But a marvellous rise in the circulation followed on the passing of the Elementary Education Act of 1870.

Meantime, the town had been fast extending its borders, and it was resolved, in 1857 (the halfpenny rate having been increased in 1855 to one penny, which now could be applied in the purchase of books), as the library was no longer centrally situated, to establish branch libraries in the out-districts, so as to place their advantages within easier reach of all. At first three were opened, and, at short intervals, six others, in addition to three reading rooms. In every case, it is important to remark that an ample supply of newspapers and periodicals was provided. The incorporation with the city of a number of surrounding townships was practically completed in 1890, and a new period of activity then began. In 1891 a branch library was established at Newton Heath, and others at Longsight and

Rusholme. Plans also have just been accepted for one at Openshaw, and another at Gorton.

Foreseeing these new and exacting demands, the Free Libraries Committee addressed themselves, in 1891, to the duty of obtaining from Parliament an extension of their resources, and they succeeded in obtaining powers to increase the rate to be levied from one penny to any sum not exceeding twopence in the pound. The penny produced an annual income of £12,000. It is not expected that the whole of the newly-augmented rate will, for some time, be required; but it has to provide for the purchase and preservation of the books, the expenses of administration, and the interest on money borrowed (by permission of the Local Government Board) for new buildings—generally at 3½ per cent., and redeemable in, say, thirty to thirty-five years.

The original building becoming unsafe, it was resolved, in 1878, to remove all the books to the old Town Hall, which was then converted into the Reference Library. The result of placing this important collection in a central position was an immediate and enormous augmentation of its usefulness, the number of books consulted in the first full year being 173,000—nearly three times as many as in the original library. There are now in the Reference Library 95,399 volumes, and in the various branch lending libraries and reading rooms 110,719, being a total of 206,118.

The number of borrowers in the last official year was 67,071, and of readers in the Reference Library 221,241. The number of volumes taken from the lending libraries for perusal at home was 702,803, or a daily average of 2,288.

On the last and largest of these figures I would call attention to the following gratifying fact;—that in the year 1890-91 the total loss sustained by the Committee in books damaged, or not returned, was the insignificant sum of 36s.; and when it is considered that thousands of these volumes are carried to and from the libraries by children and other young persons; that many are taken to mills, warehouses, and shops, to be perused at leisure times; and that in few homes is shelving or other like accommodation adequately provided, one cannot fail to be surprised and delighted at the manifest care and conscientiousness thus displayed by our readers, the larger proportion of whom are of the operative classes.

In the year 1878 two new departures were made, with the object of extending more widely the advantages of our libraries.

The first was the opening of them on certain hours every Sunday; the second was the provision of a room specially devoted to the use of boys. The latter was soon found to be so useful and so valuable that it was determined, as far as possible, to attach a similar accommodation to all the branches. These rooms are each supplied with about 500 volumes, carefully chosen, and adapted to the age and condition of the young readers. There can hardly be a more pleasing and suggestive sight than is presented by one of these apartments, with its bright and attractive appearance, its busy and helpful female attendants, and its crowd of poor lads eager for amusement and instruction. In 1890-91 eight of these reforming agencies were at work, with the following satisfactory results: on week-days they were frequented by 293,612, and on Sunday evenings by 114,524 visitors, most of whom would else have been subjected to the pernicious influences of companionships formed in the streets and courts of their neighbourhoods.

I mentioned just now that a news-room, well supplied with papers and periodicals, was attached to each of our branches. These were used to an extraordinary degree. It is computed, from observations daily and almost hourly made, that during the last official year no fewer than 4,327,038 visits were made to the various departments, being 12,155 per day. Comparing these figures with those of 1870-71, we find that the use of the libraries has increased by more than cent. per cent. Although the population has of course been greatly augmented, the difference between the present number and that of twenty years ago is not such as fully to explain this enormous advance. The additional facilities supplied by Sunday opening, and the establishment of boys' rooms, may probably account for half-a-million; but it leaves the fact unquestionable, that a spontaneous growth of considerably more than 50 per cent. has taken place, in recent years, in the use made of these institutions by the public—a growth which is likely to proceed in an accelerating ratio as the advantages of popular education are extended. It is an interesting fact that the news and reading rooms supply a not untrustworthy barometer of the state of the labour market. During the distressful period of the cotton famine they were crowded to excess. As a rule it may be taken that when work is plentiful, the attendance slackens; and when it is scarce, the attendance increases. It would seem that these rooms, in times of great social pressure, become potent factors in the prevention of

absolute idleness, and the evils accruing from time misspent in places of evil repute.

I think it a feature of the Manchester libraries worthy of special remark, that they were the first in England to engage female assistants, whose services have been found in every way most satisfactory. In the boys' rooms especially, of which they are always placed in charge, it is believed that they exert a salutary influence over their young readers. Vacancies are eagerly sought after by the daughters of tradesmen and shopkeepers, who seldom leave us except to undertake the duties of wedded life. Their salaries vary, according to experience and ability, from 10s. per week to £80 per annum. There are now employed no fewer than sixty young women in the various departments, —which is in excess, I understand, of the total number engaged in all the other libraries of the kingdom.

Our staff of male officers comprises chief-librarian, deputy-chief librarian, superintendent of branches, senior assistant in the Reference Library; and there are eleven youths, with two bookbinders and repairers, and a number of other assistants in various capacities.

The ordinary expenditure on the libraries from March, 1890, to March, 1891, was £11,128 9s. 3d., and for interest on loans and liquidation of debt on buildings, £1,240 11s. 5d.—a total of £12,439 0s. 8d. The management is vested in a Committee, composed, this year, of twenty-one members, and which is annually appointed by the City Council. They elect from among their number a sub-committee for audit and finance, and another for the purchase of books, the direction of the Reference Library, and the various local branch lending libraries and reading rooms.

If there be ratepayers in any of our towns and cities yet unconvinced of the valuable contributions to their intellectual and moral welfare which free libraries can supply, and at a cost so insignificant, I think a perusal of the statements I have submitted may lead them to reconsider their objections. No friend of these institutions can hear without deep regret of the rejection of proposals for their extension.

For we are yet, in Great Britain, lamentably behind many other countries. It was so even in the seventeenth century, when John Evelyn declared that the city of Paris alone was able to show more libraries than were to be found in the whole of Great Britain and Ireland. During the past ten years, it is true

and especially during the Jubilee of 1887, considerable additions to the number of free libraries have been made, and we may now, perhaps, reckon about 250 of them, containing, say, $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions of volumes. But the city of Boston alone had, in that year, nearly half-a-million of books for the free use of her citizens, and the single State of Massachusetts boasts of 175 towns and cities having free public libraries under municipal control, besides which 248 of the 351 towns and cities contain libraries in which the people have rights or free privileges. There are about 2,500,000 volumes in these libraries for the use of 2,104,222 of the 2,238,943 inhabitants registered in the census of 1890. Again, in the colony of Victoria there is a library for every 4,500 persons, whilst in Great Britain the proportion is only one to every 190,000 persons. Many conspicuous illustrations of deep interest in public libraries, and of munificent gifts by wealthy citizens have been supplied in America. For instance, of all the New York libraries, the Astor Library takes precedence. It is said to contain 235,000 volumes, and about 100,000 pamphlets. Its income, derived entirely from the Astor family, amounts to nearly 400,000 dollars. The maintenance is 82,000; the book fund 81,500. It is entirely a reference library; and the aim is to obtain the best books in every department of literature.

Happily we in Manchester can proudly chronicle a superb gift to the city, at the hands of Mrs. Rylands, whose purchase of the Althorp Library, and its intended dedication to public use, form a noble chapter in the history of my subject, and will be a glory and a pride to my native city for ever.

I would earnestly ask all my fellow managers of these splendid agencies in our own country to renew and reanimate their zeal. I am convinced that there is a daily growing demand for their services; and that, as the schoolmaster extends his beneficent labours, he will find in the librarian his best ally and his ablest co-worker.

In conclusion, I desire to express my sense of the privilege I have enjoyed in submitting this paper to an Association it must always be an honour to address—an honour and a distinction emphasised by the fact, that among my audience are citizens of the great and gallant nation whose representatives have graciously offered us a cordial hospitality, which we are at once proud and happy to accept.

May France and England long remain united by a golden chain of mutual esteem, friendship, and goodwill!

APPENDIX.

The following are the numbers of the newspapers and periodicals supplied to the various libraries and news-rooms:—

REFERENCE LIBRARY.

Daily and Weekly	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Monthly and Quarterly	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
Journals, Proceedings, and other Publications of Societies	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Almanacks, Peerages, Manuals, and Year Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Directories of Trades and Professions	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Directories of Residents in Cities, Counties, and Countries	...	...	...	...	...	...	80

BRANCH LIBRARIES.

Daily	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Weekly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Monthly and Quarterly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51

READING ROOMS.

Daily	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Weekly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Monthly and Quarterly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23

Boys' Rooms.

Daily	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Weekly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Monthly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

N.B.—The aggregate number of separate copies of the above, annually taken for the use of the Libraries and News-rooms, is 207,129.



The Bibliographical Society.

THIS Society, the inauguration of which we reported in a recent number of the *Library*, is now in working order, with a strong council and list of members. The work of the Provisional Committee appointed in July last to form the Society was reported to a general meeting of members held on October 24th, when the constitution, rules, and programme of the Society were formally adopted. The following is the list of Officers and Council for the year 1892-3 :—

President.—W. A. Copinger, F.S.A., F.R.S.A.

Vice-Presidents.—Right Hon. The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, K.T. ; Right Hon. Lord Charles W. B. Bruce ; R. Copley Christie, M.A. ; Richard Garnett, LL.D.

Treasurer.—Alfred H. Huth, Bolney House, Ennismore Gardens, S.W.

Hon. Secretary.—Talbot B. Reed, 4, Fann Street, E.C.

Council.—H. S. Ashbee, F.S.A., F.R.G.S., Fredk. Boase, F. S. Ellis, Reginald S. Faber, M.A., John T. Gilbert, LL.D., F.S.A., Rev. J. Clare Hudson, M.A., J. Y. W. MacAlister, F.S.A., Charles R. Rivington, F.S.A., J. H. Slater, Henry R. Tedder, F.S.A., Charles Welch, F.S.A., Henry B. Wheatley, F.S.A.

Auditors.—C. T. Jacobi, J. Arnold Green.

The following programme has been arranged for the Session 1892-3.

“The Present Condition of English Bibliography, and suggestions for the future,” by H. B. Wheatley.

“Method in Bibliography :—A survey of tendencies, with suggestions,” by F. Madan.

“Incunabula,” by Stephen J. Aldrich.

“The Relation of Typography to Bibliography,” by Talbot B. Reed.

“The Official Record of Current Literature,” by H. R. Tedder.

“Special Bibliographies,” by R. C. Christie.

“The Ideal Book,” by William Morris.

“The Printing and Publishing of Modern Books,” by C. T. Jacobi.

The Committee further made several important recommendations with a view to indicate the scope of the Society's work, the chief of which were as follows :—

"1. The Committee suggest that the series of papers read during the first Session of the Society—forming, as far as possible, a general survey of the present condition of English Bibliography—should, subject to the approval of the Council, be collected and issued in volume form to Members of the Society.

"2. In order to give practical effect to the discussions which may arise on the above topics, the Committee suggest the formation of Standing Committees, to enquire into and report to the Society on questions relating to the following special departments of Bibliographical work, or any others the Council may decide, viz. :—

- (a.) Early Printed Books.
- (b.) Current Literature.
- (c.) General Literature.
- (d.) Special Bibliographies.
- (e.) Book Production and Publication.

Members to be invited to serve on any one or more of such Committees as they may be able and willing to assist.

"3. The Committee recommend that arrangements be made from time to time for the exhibition of works and objects connected with Bibliography, either to illustrate papers read before the Society, or as special exhibits; also for occasional visits to collections or places of Bibliographical interest.

"4. The Committee also recommend the organization, if possible, of a Reference Section, as a medium of inter-communication between Members engaged in Bibliographical work, for the reception and transmission of Bibliographical notes and queries, and the systematic filing of Bibliographical memoranda for the service of Members of the Society.

"5. They also recommend early consideration of the propriety of issuing a periodical Journal of the Society's Transactions."

It was decided to include among the objects of the Society the formation of a Bibliographical Library, towards which we understand several useful gifts and offers have already been made.

The number of members at present is upwards of 160, and it has been decided that until the number reaches 200 no entrance fee shall be charged.

FIRST MONTHLY MEETING, NOVEMBER 21ST, 1892.

The meeting was held at 20, Hanover Square, W. There was a good attendance of members and visitors.

Mr. W. A. Copinger, President, occupied the chair. Before the proceedings commenced it was announced that H.R.H. the Duc d'Aumale had joined the Society as an ordinary member.

The President took the sense of the meeting with regard to a suggestion by a member of Council that smoking should be permitted during the ordinary meetings of the Society, and the proposal was agreed to *nem. con.*

The President then delivered his inaugural address. After thanking the Society for the honour conferred upon him he expressed a hope that they would accomplish useful work, not by attempting to carry out individual ideas, but by co-operating with one another to place the study of bibliography on a higher level than heretofore, and applying to it all that care and research without which it could not expect to rank as an exact

science. Passing in review the various definitions of the term he drew a distinction between the bibliography which deals with books in their material aspect, and bibliology which deals with the intellectual side of books. Like history, bibliography is constantly in danger of getting out of date. The old methods and materials are no longer satisfactory, and must give place to a stricter system. The deductive process had been tried; the inductive had taken its place. Passing from general considerations, the lecturer dealt with the materials which existed for a complete general catalogue of English literature, indicating the chief gaps which required to be bridged over, and suggesting that the printed catalogue of the British Museum, now nearing completion, might furnish, if not the precise lines, at least a basis for such a work. Another matter in which he took a special interest, and in which the Society might render important service, was the completion of the existing list of fifteenth-century books contained in Hain's *Repertorium*. Omissions in this valuable work were constantly coming to light. In going through the letter "A" alone of the British Museum Catalogue he had found that out of 720 fifteenth-century works there entered, as many as 180 were not in Hain, and that altogether it was probable that the Museum contained at least 1,275 out of its 5,102 incunabula which were not included in Hain. He trusted that before long the Museum would extend to all their incunabula the practice which, he was glad to see, they were about to adopt with regard to Bibles, namely, that of adding Hain's number to the Catalogue. The materials for completing the list of fifteenth-century books were numerous, special reference being made to the work of Herr Burger, of Germany, and of the catalogues now being prepared by all the principal French librarians of the incunabula under their charge. He trusted that the special committee of the Society to be appointed to deal with this matter would be able to devise a systematic method of laying every available source of information under contribution. As an example of some of the material which existed, he would append to his address a list of some 200 works devoted specially to the record of the titles of fifteenth-century books. In conclusion, he called upon every member of the Society to render such help as might be in his power; and while maintaining the broad basis on which their objects had been framed, to aim to raise the standard of bibliography and establish it as one of the exact sciences of the day. (Cheers.)

A vote of thanks to Mr. Copinger for his interesting address was proposed by Mr. R. C. Christie, and seconded by Mr. Huth, and carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 19th, when Mr. H. B. Wheatley will read a paper on "The Present Condition of English Bibliography, and suggestions for the future," to be followed by a discussion.



The Reasonableness of Free Public Libraries, with a Word to the Librarians.*

IT may seem rather late in the day to bring such a subject as this under the notice of the members of the Library Association. The success of this Association, and the great number of public libraries instituted, and kept going all over the United Kingdom, would point to the fact that the public have taken kindly to their establishment. But is this so? Have not the great bulk of the free libraries which are now in existence been created under considerable difficulties and discouragements? It would have been impossible to establish many of the most successful public libraries but for private munificence. Libraries which have been set up by the aid of the ratepayer have had to encounter obstructions which have well-nigh broken the hearts of those who were disinterestedly engaged in seeking to create them. In a great and wealthy community like Great Britain, which boasts of a roll of literary men unequalled by any country in the world, and believed to be infused with literary tastes and aspirations for which all take credit, it is hardly to be believed that the opposition to the establishment of free libraries has not been in harmony with these tastes and aspirations. The very petty sum thrown on the rates by the present Act of Parliament has been the major cause of all this opposition, and it is deplorable to think that this small impost should be the cause of so much antipathy to the movement. I have been much struck with the narrow majorities which have been the means of establishing free libraries in the metropolis, and it does not speak well for the intelligence of the greatest city in the world when one examines the figures.

In the provincial towns it is different, but for my present purpose I only direct my attention to London. I would instance Lewisham, where 7,000 voters took part, and it was only a majority of 685 which brought the act into operation; or worse

* A paper read at the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Paris, September, 1892.

still, take Poplar, where 6,449 electors were at the trouble to go to the poll, there was only a small majority of 153 in favour of the Act being adopted. There are of course one or two bright exceptions, as for instance West Ham, which Mr. Keir Hardie has the honour of representing, where, out of upwards of 13,000 voters, there was a majority of 6,418 in favour of the Act.

In the borough of Marylebone, with which I am more immediately connected, we have gone to the poll on three different occasions, and have suffered defeat—it is true each time with a smaller majority against us, but it is still a majority, and quite sufficient to prevent the Act being adopted. Now why should there be this feeling against free libraries in the metropolis, and what steps can we, as an Association, take to modify this feeling, and carry victory all along the line?

I have arrived at the conclusion that a very great part of the antipathy to free public libraries arises not from the working man, who is the greatest benefactor from the movement, but from the small shopkeeping class, who resents the whole thing in a spirit of antagonism, which can only be explained by his reluctance to have any addition to his taxation. He will tell you, in spite of all your protests, that he believes the library rate will advance with the same rapidity as the School Board has done. It is no use arguing with him. He tells you he was led to believe that the School Board would be no more than 3d., and now it is 1s.

If I am correct in my conclusion as to the source of a great deal of the opposition to the free library movement in the metropolis, surely the time has arrived for something being done to win over with "sweet reasonableness" our most formidable opponents. My own idea is that in those districts where determined objections are brought forward, this Association should come forward on every possible occasion, and urge the importance of the movement. Surely something can be done by our literary librarians in presenting pictures of happy homes resulting from a course of judicious reading—pictures of reformed homes where families will be found gathered together round the fireside, with a free library book as a topic of conversation. Why should not the librarians, as well as those who are also interested in this great work which we have at heart, form themselves into a compact body of workers, and seek to demonstrate the enormous advantages of cultivating a little taste for literature? If I insist on all this I shall im-

mediately be told that the librarians are worked quite hard enough with their various duties in the library to engage themselves in any crusading work of this sort. There may be something in that objection at the first glance; but it appears to me that by acting in this way an additional influence would be given to the librarian, and his position improved. For my part, I consider that the librarian is not nearly so assertive a man as he should be. When the encyclopædic knowledge of a librarian is borne in mind, and, at the same time, the very modest stipend which is awarded to him, it is perhaps hardly to be wondered at that he does not receive all the credit that is due to him; but if he will step out of the library, and show himself a man of mettle, and ready to do something to advance a great cause, his position and his emoluments will surely increase. At the present moment the position of the librarian is not what it should be; but there is no doubt, that with clearer views on the part of the public as to the enormous utility of public libraries and reading rooms, a position will, by and by, be secured to them which they do not occupy to-day. Their position is not much better than it was 100 years ago; and it is hard to say if the picture of a librarian, as presented by Montesquieu in his *Lettres Persanes*, is not the same now as it was then. He says:—

“I went the other day to see a great library at a convent of dervishes, who are, in some measure, the proprietors of it, but who are obliged to give admittance to all comers at stated hours.

“Upon entering, I beheld a serious personage, who walked amidst a prodigious number of surrounding volumes. I went up to him and begged he would be so kind as to inform me what those books were which I saw so much better bound than the rest. ‘Sir,’ said he, ‘I am here as the inhabitant of a foreign country, I know nobody. Many besides you have proposed such questions to me; but you cannot think it reasonable that I should read all these books in order to give them information. My librarian here can satisfy your curiosity, for he is busied night and day in deciphering what you see here. He is a very worthless member, and a great burden to us, because he does nothing for the convent. But the bell rings to call me to the refectory. Those who, like me, are at the head of a society, should be the first to assist at all the exercises peculiar to it.’ The monk having spoken thus, pushed me out, shut the door, and disappeared, just as if he had possessed the art of flying.”

Speaking as a bookseller, I rejoice in the success of the library movement, and believe that wherever there is a good library there are sure to be some booksellers' shops not far off. It seems hardly necessary that one should descant on the advantages of libraries to those who are so familiar with the subject, but what I wish to bring home to the Association is, that there is still a large portion of the population opposed to the system, and if by any means in the power of the Library Association this antipathy can be overcome, a great work will be accomplished. It seems to me, that the Association might appoint a small Committee of London librarians to set a propaganda agoing to reform London alone, and suggest some modes by which this can be effected—say by the exhibition of curious books, popular lectures, or lime-light entertainments on subjects bearing on literature or books—anything in fact which will tend to popularise the library movement. The enormous number of readers in many of our public libraries should alone be an incentive to have a free library in London parishes, and I should be very glad, if the Association sees its way to undertake this work, that they will begin with the parish of Marylebone, and so alter public opinion that when next we go to the vote, the vote will be in our favour.

DAVID STOTT.



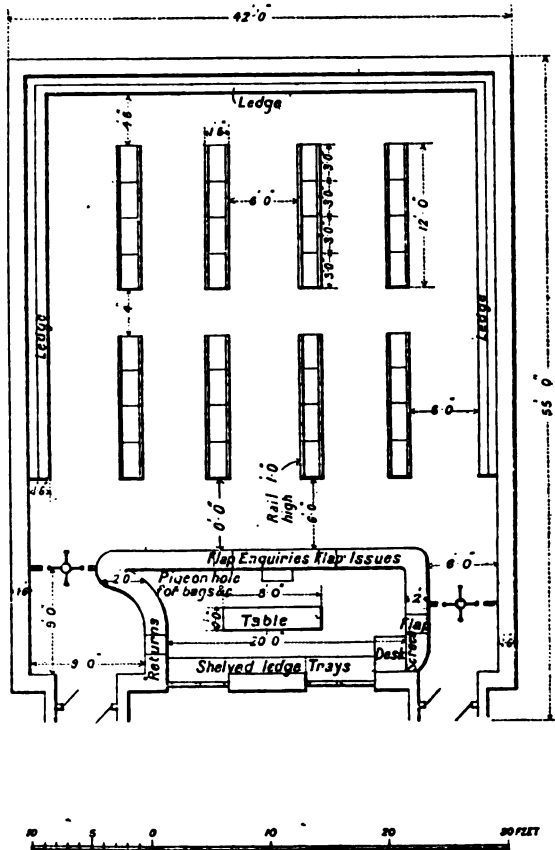
“A Plea for Liberty” to Readers to Help Themselves.

THERE has been so much discussion recently about charging or lending systems in public libraries, that a brief note on the subject from an unusual point of view may not be thought amiss. We call it “unusual,” because it is rather that than novel, having over a century’s antiquity to boast of; and the idea for lending library management about to be described, is, therefore, only to be considered as a fresh application of a good old method. The original lending library, or circulating library as it was commonly called, had no counter to speak of, and subscribers were allowed direct access to the books on the shelves. This plan is in vogue at the present time in all kinds of commercial and proprietary subscription libraries. It is the plan now worked in various reference libraries, to which readers have access under certain restrictions, and may be seen in operation in the British Museum, Sion College, London, and various collegiate and other libraries. Most important of all for the purpose of this note, it is in operation successfully in various town libraries in England, the Colonies, and the United States, and *any person from the street*, being clean and of proper age, may have unrestricted access to the books on open shelves. This being so, why is it that borrowers in Public Lending Libraries are kept at bay by barriers and all sorts of mechanical contrivances, notwithstanding that they are all guaranteed, and, to a large extent, well known to the staff? If Tom, Dick, and Harry, minus any credentials whatever, can enter reference libraries at Bradford, Cambridge, Melbourne, and elsewhere, to select his reading, why is it that Thomas, Richard, and Henry, fully vouched for and carefully selected, cannot exercise a similar privilege? It is simply because of the **RULES AND REGULATIONS!** and also because a certain traditional distrust of the public makes librarians and their masters dread an annual loss of half-a-dozen volumes in the effort to make their readers thoroughly satisfied, by permitting the right of free selection

unhampered by bad catalogues, and indicators which save trouble only to the staff. The outstanding fact and universal cry in all popular lending libraries, is not only that borrowers cannot get the books they want, but also that they cannot chance upon any book likely to suit them, owing to catalogues being mere inventories, and the existence of all sorts of barriers, which make the selection of books a heart-break and a labour tinged with disgust. The number of persons who leave our lending libraries with the conviction that they are impositions is too great to be easily calculated, and for the credit of modern librarianship, it is perhaps best that nothing definite should be known. What lending libraries want, in addition to a less suspicious method of dealing with the public, is a better means of making their book-wealth known, while giving a less elaborate system of charging and service. To some extent the proposal about to be made meets every want which can arise in the public use of a library, while it also sweeps away the artificial intermediaries, which have been gradually adopted to meet the requirements of small staffs, and the various exigencies of charging systems designed for speed in issues and accuracy in recording. In short, the proposal simply amounts to this: *Let the public inside, and place the staff outside, the counter.* The small plan which accompanies this note shows almost at a glance how a given area—in this case 1,900 square feet—can be made to accommodate 20,000 volumes, and be arranged so that 2,000 borrowers can be effectively served in a day with a staff of three or four, and a cheap author-catalogue one-third the ordinary size. The book shelves are ordinary standards about seven feet six inches high, raised nine to twelve inches from the floor by a narrow step, and spaced about six feet apart. In these the books are closely classified according to subjects and authors (in the case of fiction), and properly numbered and marked as in libraries where public access and close classification go hand in hand. Each class would have a differently *shaped* location label, and each shelf of a tier a different *colour* of label, to get over the disarrangement difficulty. The movable location would be used, and the backs of the books would simply bear a label, according to class and shelf, with the shelf number conspicuously marked on it, the classes to be arranged so that fiction would go all round the walls alphabetically, and subjects so distributed that crowding would be reduced in the different divisions. The whole to be so plainly labelled and marked, that only the blind

would be unable to find a given subject—author or number. There are many ways of doing all this, which need not at present be entered upon. Each borrower on joining receives an identification card, which he retains till it expires, and in addition a small pass-book, bearing his name and number, and ruled to show the numbers of books read and dates of their issue, is kept at the library. When he enters to get a book he simply shows his identification ticket bearing his number, and the assistant hands over the pass-book, and allows him to pass the turnstile on the left of plan. At this turnstile umbrellas, hand-bags, &c., must be left, and unsatisfactory messengers and non-registered borrowers stopped. The reader proceeds to the shelves and makes his selection, probably contenting himself with Hooker's *Ecclesiastical Polity*, on finding Mrs. Henry Wood all out! He then goes to the turnstile on the right of the plan, and hands his book and pass-book to the assistant, who simply enters the book number in it, and dates both book and pass-book. The reader then goes out, leaving the pass-book. A simple card-charging system enables the librarian to tell all the books out, and who has them; who among the borrowers have books out, and who have not; as well as when any given book is due back at the library, and the issues of a given day. When a book is returned the same routine is observed, except that the assistant goes to a dated tray for the pass-book instead of to the stock of unclaimed tickets. In this way a complete and simple plan is worked, which has advantages in economy to the library and real usefulness to the public, not to be gained by any other lending library system now in use. The educational value to the readers would be enormous, and the popularity and standard of reading of every library would be largely increased. The arrangement of the plan provides for such a degree of supervision that thefts would probably be less common than at the first glance seems likely; while the presence of an assistant, free to help readers, and keep order among both books and people, would add to the value of the whole scheme. It is not for the writer of this to suggest weaknesses in it, nor to affirm that the arrangements of old-established libraries could easily be altered to admit of the plan being adopted; but it is for him to claim some consideration for the scheme, especially from those who have it in their power to make it a feature in new buildings. The subject is one which deserves the best thought which librarians can give, and it may

"THE *OTHER* SIDE OF THE COUNTER."



Lincoln Cathedral Library.

WHAT is now the vestibule to the present library was really the ancient library. Its date can be fixed with tolerable certainty. A glance at the roof inside, and at the outside wall as seen in ascending the staircase, will show that the structure is of the 15th century, and in confirmation I need only quote the writing on a flyleaf of a MS. marked A. 3.18 in the catalogue, "*Istum Librum legavit et assignavit Magister Thomas Duffield nuper Cancellarius ecclesiæ Cathedralis Lincoln. novæ Librariæ enisæ. An. Dom. MCCCCXXII.*"

A sketch of this library before modern alterations were made has been preserved, and from it we learn that it extended rather nearer to the Chapter House, with which it communicated by a spiral stone staircase still partly existing. In other respects it is much as it was. The present mean and unsightly wooden staircase, leading up to the modern door, is probably of the last century.

Small as this vestibule is it must have been quite large enough to hold the original library. When it was built there were nothing but MSS. Whether they were kept in chests or on shelves we have no means of knowing, but from a 12th century catalogue preserved in the great Bible given by Nicholas, Canon and Archdeacon of Lincoln, circa 1105, we learn that when Haimo was appointed Chancellor, circa 1150, and the care of the books committed to him, "*hos in armario invenit libros.*" Possibly this arrangement was maintained in the *nova libraria* to which Duffield gave his MS. We have still remaining three very fine bookstands of the 15th century, to which the largest and most valuable books were chained, and which undoubtedly must have stood in the *nova libraria*; a similar arrangement may still be seen in Hereford Cathedral Library.

The 12th century catalogue to which I have referred has been printed in the edition of Giraldus Cambrensis (vol. 7, p. 165), published by the Master of the Rolls; with prefaces by the late

Mr. Dimock and Professor Freeman. The latter remarks on the singular absence of English books, or books at all bearing on English history, with the exception of Giraldus' gift of some of his own writings, and possibly the "Septem volumina magistri Radulfi Nigri." Certainly the great bulk of the library consists of ecclesiastical literature, psalters with glosses—glosses on the Bible, &c. The service books, missals, graduals, and the like, have all, with possibly one exception, disappeared. They were considered as "monuments of superstition" at the time of the Reformation, and shared the fate of the vestments and other paraphernalia of the mediæval church.

Still, by a happy chance, the larger portion of the Cathedral Library survived, and at the present day it is possible to identify a considerable number of the MSS., some of which Haimo found on his appointment in 1150, and some of which were added afterwards by beneficent Bishops and Canons.

The process of identification is not difficult. In the first place the character of the writing and illumination will of course determine, with some degree of precision, the date. Taking therefore a MS. *Haimo super epistolas Pauli*, which in the 12th century catalogue is said to have been the gift of Jordan the Treasurer, whose date is circa 1180, we can see at once the clearest evidence of it being the identical MS.; and in the next place we are fortunate in possessing a second catalogue, of the 15th century, found by Canon Wickenden in the Muniment Room, which not only gives the names of all the MSS., but also the catch-words on the second page of each MS. Thus in the case we are considering the catch-word given to this MS. is "*te impositum*," and if anyone opens *Haimo super epistolas Pauli* at the second leaf, he will find those words.

This second catalogue therefore adds certainty to what before was only strong probability.

By its aid I have been able to identify 77 MSS., many of them belonging to the 12th and 13th centuries.

It is needless to do more than refer to a few. The great Bible given by Nicholas, Canon and Archdeacon, which contains the 12th century catalogue, is mentioned as "*in duobus voluminibus*." Unfortunately the second volume is missing, and has been so since 1696, for in a Catalogue of that date after the word "*voluminibus*" follows "*quorum unum deest*." It was still entire in the 15th century.

One MS. in the earliest catalogue I had hoped to identify as

the *Psalterium cum magna glossatura*, given by Bishop St. Hugh 1180-1200; for there is a psalter, with a disproportionately large gloss, of about the date 1200, which answers to the description and is the only one which does among the many glossed psalters remaining. If only the catch-word had been given in the early catalogue we could have been quite certain. In the 15th century catalogue this MS. is entitled *Cassiodorus super psalterium*, Cassiodorus being, by the way, only one of the many commentators quoted in the great gloss, and the catch-word is *virtutibus*. This agrees with our MS. On the whole it seems very probable that the *donum Hugonis Episcopi* of the earliest catalogue, and the MS. we possess, are identical. One would prefer in this case absolute certainty.

Of the "*septem volumina magistri Radulfi Nigri*" we have his *Chronicon a principio mundi usque ad captionem Regis Ricardi I.*, and his *Philippicus* with a *prologus*. The oldest of all our MSS. is a copy of the *Homilies* of the Venerable Bede. It was found in the *armarium* by Chancellor Haimo. To show that literary "Doctors disagree" I will add that the late Mr. Coxe, Bodley's Librarian, assigned it to the latter half of the 10th century, while the late Mr. Bradshaw, the librarian of the University of Cambridge, assigned it to the first half of the 11th century, and another gentleman, of great experience in such matters, considered it anterior to the earlier of these dates! I must not linger unduly on this theme, so I will hasten to say that we possess a rich treasure of early English literature in the *Thornton Romances*, collected by Robert Thornton, Archdeacon of Bedford, in the 15th century, much of which has been published by the Early English Text Society; also a beautiful little vulgate written on "abortion—vellum," A.D. 1310—20; nor must I pass over our solitary Missal, which I wish I could believe was among those eight missals recorded in the 12th century catalogue, and which are said to have been "in the Church under the custody of the Treasurer." Unfortunately it is not mentioned in the 15th century catalogue, and from a rubric in which the Abbot is alluded to, it is evidently a monastic missal. Much of it is in 12th century or early 13th century writing. It contains the office of St. Gilbert of Sempringham, a Lincolnshire saint, and may have belonged to a Gilbertine house in this county.

But in addition to the rich heritage of mediæval MSS. which have been in the Cathedral Library since the 12th

century, I must not forget to mention a large number that were given by Dean Honeywood, part of the fruit of his labours as a book-collector during his enforced exile on the continent during the Commonwealth. I regret that no separate catalogue of Honeywood's MSS. is to be found, for although his monogram is written in most of the books and MSS. he gave to the Library, there are unfortunately a good many exceptions. We are certainly indebted to him for a Dutch Psalter, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, and a very fine copy of Peter Lombard's *Consensus in Psalmos*, preserved in a glass case in the library. He may also have been the donor of our solitary Missal.

Turning from MSS. to printed books, it will naturally be asked whether any of those survive which must have been in the ancient library from 1450 to 1660. Unhappily no catalogue is extant of the contents of the library between the dates I have specified, and it would scarcely be safe to jump to the conclusion that every book, which has not Honeywood's monogram in it, was necessarily an inhabitant of the ancient library. One book, however, St. Augustine's *Sermons*, I have good reason to think belonged to Bishop Longland, the last pre-reformation Bishop, who died in 1547. Each volume has his name written in it, in a hand strikingly resembling his own. But the exceedingly rare and valuable Primers of Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Mary, were undoubtedly given by Honeywood; as also were the Printed Missals of the Uses of Sarum and York. The choice collection of Bibles, I believe, was also his gift. I cannot speak with any certainty of the Caxton of which we were ruthlessly despoiled by Dibdin, who afterwards exposed the ignorance of the Chapter, as well as his own impudence, in what he was pleased to term, "The Lincoln Nosegay," which has been reprinted by Botfield in his *Notes on Cathedral Libraries*. Briefly, Dibdin persuaded the Chapter, through Sub-Dean Bayley, who happened to be in residence, when he visited the library in 1816, to let him purchase the Caxtons for a very inadequate price, and to buy modern and "more useful" books with the money. He was allowed to carry off *The Game of Chess*, *Reynard the Fox*, *Cato*, &c., which now repose in the Althorp library. I blush to speak of the equivalent. It comprised *The Beauties of England and Wales*, Collins' *Peerage*, and such like works.

I will now turn to the present library, the history of which has partly been anticipated. It runs along what was the north side of the cloister, but which was ruined by Dean

Mackworth, who built a stable for his horses thereon, according to the charge made against him at Bishop Alnwick's Visitation of the Cathedral in 1436-7. Dean Honeywood, who was appointed Dean at the Restoration, 1660, found this side of the cloister an unsightly ruin, and employed Sir Christopher Wren to build the present library. It is 104 feet long, and an admirable room for the purpose for which it was built, viz., to hold the Dean's noble collection of books which he had formed abroad. Unfortunately, he did not contemplate large additions, and the room is only lighted on one side, the south, and at one end, the west. Hence, when a steady accretion of books began to take place, beginning with nearly 800 volumes given by Dean Jeremie in recent times, it became necessary to place book-cases between the windows, with the result that on dark days the titles of the books can hardly be discerned.

In this room there are two of the fine mediæval desks or book-stands, to which I have alluded; one remaining in the vestibule. At the west end are two glass-cases; one containing patens and chalices, with some episcopal rings, taken out of the tombs which were unhappily rifled and swept away when the Cathedral was re-paved in 1784. The paten and chalice and ring of Bishop Oliver Sutton were added only a few years ago, his stone coffin having been accidentally broken into by workmen employed in re-laying the adjacent pavement. One may notice also the licence of Edward I. to the Dean and Chapter to erect the Close-Wall in 1285, for the protection of the Canons and Vicars who were exposed to robbery and murder at night.

In another case is a contemporary copy of *Magna Charta*, endorsed "For Lincoln," and Peter Lombard's *Commentary on the Psalms*, already mentioned, open at the CX. Psalm, where there is a fine illumination of God the Father crowning God the Son, who holds a Church in His hand, while the Dragon lies beneath His feet. This is, alas! one of the few good illuminations left to us. As a rule, the best have been cut out by the despoiler's hand in days when ladies collected such things for their albums, and the library door was unlocked. Of the rich store of books collected by Dean Honeywood, it would take too long to write exhaustively. Among other treasures is a collection of tracts, sermons, pamphlets, &c., dating from 1550 to 1680. In one of the volumes is *Lycidas* in its original form, as it came out at Cambridge, in company with several other poems,

written by friends of Mr. Edward King. Another very valuable item in the library is a collection of Italian Madrigals, dating from 1549 to 1640, mostly printed at Venice. Some of these are absolutely unique, as I am assured by an eminent German scholar, who for years past has been searching the libraries of Europe for these things. Perhaps the Liturgical books bought by the Dean may be reckoned as some of our chief treasures. Not to mention the printed Missals of Sarum and York Use, already alluded to, we have a printed book of Hours of the B. V. M. of the Use of York, unhappily imperfect, but so far as it goes, almost unique, no copy existing in the British Museum.

The collection of Bibles is very valuable, and includes Tyndall's, Coverdale's, Matthew's, &c. The "Sealed Prayer-book," with the seal of England attached, the last form of prayer, in which alteration was made by public authority, is another of our treasures; and the first editions of *Don Quixote* and *Paradise Lost*.

In more recent times some valuable additions have been made to our Library. Dean Jeremie indeed did not give of his best, although about 800 vols. found their way from his shelves to ours, but he gave a copy of Caxton's *Lives of the Saints*, which, although insignificant in comparison with what we have lost and wanting in the title page, is still worth a good deal of money. I may mention also that Sub-Dean Manners-Sutton gave a very fine copy of Jerome's *Epistles*, printed at Rome in 1468, and that Archdeacon Bonney provided us with a copy, made by his own hands, of the drawings of the tombs and brasses, etc., in the Cathedral made by Dugdale in 1641.

Still, in spite of many kind gifts from various donors of late years, it must be confessed that the stream of benefactions almost ceased with Dean Honeywood's death. Some books were indeed given by Bishop Fuller, but during the eighteenth century, "the age of folios," hardly anything was given to the library. I can scarcely point to a single offering except the "Legenda Aurea" of Aquinas, which was the gift of a Registrar called John Bradley, about 1770.

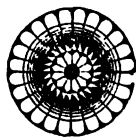
With the 19th century came the act of spoliation I have described, when the choicest treasures were parted with for a miserable consideration.

Unfortunately the library is absolutely unendowed, and although it has been the practice of the Dean and Chapter to set aside yearly a certain sum of money for the purchase of

books, yet this must depend upon circumstances. During the last thirty years some useful additions have been made—Dugdale's *Monasticon* in eight folio vols. is one, The Publications of the Surtees Society, Camden Society, Oxford Historical Society, Lincoln Architectural Society, are all taken in. Many small local histories have been acquired.

The problem how to render the library useful and available for the public has not yet been solved. A glance at it would show that it is not a place in which many can study at the same time. Neither are its contents for the most part calculated to attract the ordinary reader, whether lay or clerical. Undoubtedly a scholar or student of bibliography might while away many an hour among the "incunabula" and other rare books, but the clergyman who wishes to consult modern authors must go elsewhere. Whether the library can ever become a "circulating" one, I am not competent to say. At present it is open to readers on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11 to 1, but the number who avail themselves of the privilege is ridiculously small. The proposal to move it, and to enlarge it so as to accommodate a greater number of readers, has yet to be fully weighed and considered. One thing however is clear, that before it can become useful to the general mass of reading laymen or clerics, a very large addition must be made to its contents. In spite of modern benefactions, it is still, to all intents and purposes, Dean Honeywood's Library.

A. R. MADDISON, M.A., LIBRARIAN.



A Plan for Providing Technical Instruction for Library Students and Assistants.

"Yet I doubt not through the ages one increasing purpose runs,
And the thoughts of men are widened with the process of the suns."—*Tennyson*.

IT is, I believe, an acknowledged fact that for the first year of work, apprentices, pupils, learners, assistants—what you will—waste more material and time, and are worth less, than they would be if trained, even to a slight extent, in the way they should go. Therefore, from an economic point of view it is to the instructor's advantage that his or her intended assistants should have, at least, an elementary training in the duties of the work in which they are about to assist. There is no Library School in Great Britain; State enterprise is not sufficiently alive to the important part which free and other libraries and librarians are about to play in the educational future of Great Britain and Ireland, and most individual librarians seem to prefer to train their raw material in the mould of the particular library in which they serve; which is, perhaps, the outcome of necessity, seeing that hitherto there has been no one else to do it for them, and it is obvious that training of some sort is essential. This is practically acknowledged by assistants themselves; take one for instance in the *Library* (Nos. 43,44,45), who says, "There is no profession the petty details of which are harder to grasp than ours . . . and I cannot be too grateful for the mercy shown to my blunders when I was let loose on a library for the first time." The last nine words graphically describe the existing state of things among junior assistants without previous experience, of whom I write.

It is understood that one of the chief objects of the Library Association of the United Kingdom is to raise the status of the librarian and make his calling a recognised profession, and as the librarians of to-morrow are largely drawn from the assistants of to-day, it seems the most natural thing to begin by offering the assistants special facilities for self-improvement, so that they can, when called upon, *adequately* fill the post of librarian, being fully equipped, not only on matters that do occur now, but on those that may occur in the future. The librarian's position is a most important one, standing as he practically does in the light

of adviser to the public. It is no exaggeration to say that the librarian, *if competent*, is a great power, and will daily become a greater; therefore, only the best educated, most thoroughly efficient persons should be permitted to fill such important positions. It is not merely a question of commercial interest or business capacity, though the latter is most essential; but the fitness of a person, morally, commercially and intellectually.

Now this training should not be confined, I take it, to those already engaged in libraries, many of them as mere automatons, because, if this be so, a large number of candidates willing and ready to fit themselves by study and examination will then be kept out, and thus good embryo librarians lost to the profession.

I am well aware that a system of training was successfully tried by Mr. Nicholson, of the Bodleian, details of which experiment he sets forth in the Bodleian report, but owing to want of time and help this system could not be continued, which is much to be regretted, and this fact gives me a point.

All librarians have a right to expect their assistants to come to them in some measure prepared for their work. No librarian should be expected to undertake the training of the staff, on which he has to depend, other than those local details peculiar to each individual library.

Of course I am well aware that this has always been done, but I maintain that, as long as it continues to be, so long will the improved status of the librarian be delayed, for it stands to reason that Library Commissioners cannot afford to pay skilled wages for unskilled labour, which is never cheap. Neither can a qualified person accept the low rate of salary that a youth or a girl will gladly take to get trained, after a fashion, because it is obvious, that when actively employed, there is less leisure for self-improvement and study than at other times, as the hours in most Free Libraries are long; and though the work may not be so very hard the tension is considerable, so that after hours' relaxation in the form of recreation—not always the best form either—is all that is thought of by juniors of both sexes, as there is no encouragement given to progress, except in the case of a few individual librarians. This want of interest on the part of the juniors is often the natural outcome of being kept to one branch of the profession, so mechanical that it becomes uninteresting, because the value of that particular mechanism in connection with the whole of the working is not sufficiently demonstrated.

The examinations of the Library Association of the United Kingdom have done something to create encouragement, and on reference to the report of the Committee on the Training of Assistants (*Library Association Transactions*, 1881), I see that assistance of practical kind was at one time contemplated, but it does not go far enough. Books are recommended which are beyond the means of many a would-be student, and the personal element of instruction, assistance, and advice is lacking when most needed—at the *pons asinorum*, which comes to all students.

Then how is the student to obtain access to the business books of a library unless actively employed, when even then some will be closed to him, and how shall he be otherwise than prejudiced if his attentions are confined to the library management and maintenance in one district or province only. It is not given to all of us to begin work in a large city library under the best of librarians. I believe a diversity of opinion as to the best forms of library economy may be thought by some to lead the student into a muddle-headed and befogged condition, but the ordinary intelligence of the average genuine student should lead him to steer a clear course for the best results of the “many minds of many men.” Besides, to be one-sided is to be contemptible, and to “hear all sides is the only way to escape such a horror.”

Now as the Library Association of the United Kingdom has gone thus far in establishing examinations, and as it is supposed to be impossible to start a library college like unto the American one, and as it appears to be universally acknowledged that training is not only a good thing, but essential, I have the temerity to propose that the Library Association of the United Kingdom should go a little further; and the following is a somewhat nebulous indication of a plan, which requires the masterly touch of some hand to put it into a practical working form.

I make the following offer, which is, if any of the outlined suggestions herein contained are thought worthy of practical consideration, I will, if considered worthy of such an honour, undertake any of the extra labour involved under the direction of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, and will subscribe £2 2s. to any special fund which may be thought necessary in connection:—

1. I propose that in addition to the Library Association of the United Kingdom examination papers which are published yearly, outline keys of the technical portion be also printed either

separately or with the Year-Book, as is done in the case of University and other examinations, and that copies of these be sent librarians to distribute amongst students; also that the fact of their publication be made known in the official organ.

2. That the Library Association of the United Kingdom make known its willingness to assist genuine aspirants as far as possible, and in addition to the stimulus already provided by the examinations, arrange for a course or courses of theoretical and practical lectures in the winter session on technical and intellectual matters bearing on library management, &c. That where lectures already exist on subjects in any way useful to the library student, the Library Association of the United Kingdom procure special terms as to fees for their students. That centres be formed in various places where intending students can apply for information and instruction, and that librarians be asked to ascertain the approximate number of students for whom provision is to be made in each district, that notice be given of such a course with the fees also, that these lectures be open only to *bonâ fide* students of both sexes, whether employed already, or preparing for such employment.

3. That librarians be allowed, where able and willing, to take volunteer students as apprentices or pupils, in much the same way that a coach does, and that from time to time test papers be set by the Library Association of the United Kingdom on the course for examination and sent to these coaches, or those pupils known to be preparing, or trying to prepare, for examination.

4. That a manual be prepared of the various libraries in England and elsewhere using different systems of classification, catalogue, etc., with an index of all the systems known to be in use, and notes on their application in respective districts, with some indication as to those considered best.

5. That strenuous efforts be made to obtain from all libraries and librarians at home, on the Continent, and in America and the Colonies, specimens of appliances, books, forms, models, catalogues in all stages of compilation, with a collection of Reports, Acts, and Bye Laws, and dummy sets of ruled business books, &c., and that a library of the more expensive American, foreign, and technical books beyond the reach of most students be procured and lent out to students on a sufficient guarantee.

6. That the British Museum be asked to assist by furnishing

models of its arrangements, forms and printed catalogues, for the use of students, and that if possible the present elementary museum be used as a nucleus for the display of specimens connected with library work until a bureau can be started where such things could be placed, and where lectures and classes could be held, so that students can not only see, but also handle and examine such matter, under supervision if necessary.

7. That librarians and others known to be good on special subjects be asked to lecture on such subjects, either in London or the provinces.

8. That the Library Association of the United Kingdom give special facilities to their students, by arranging with the authorities of college, university, and other libraries, to allow them on the production of a card of authorisation to study their systems, early printed books, incunabula, &c., these things being difficult of access to most students, and a knowledge of them being imperative. That periodical visits be made under direction to various libraries on convenient dates, to study the working of the different systems.

9. That a knowledge of the elementary, technical and trade terms on all business connected with libraries, such as printing, bookbinding, advertising and book-sales be expected of students, and some direction be given as to how to obtain it. Further, that every student employed, or preparing for employment, be expected to give a sufficient guarantee, and promise to abide by the decision arrived at as to their fitness, after the lapse of a reasonable period, so that no time nor money need be wasted on either side.

10. That those having passed the examinations satisfactorily and thoroughly mastered details, after practical experience, be allowed to register their names at the Library Association of the United Kingdom office, and that all vacant posts in connection with libraries be indicated at once direct to the Secretary, and preference given by commissioners, committees and librarians to successful candidates under the auspices of the Library Association of the United Kingdom as an inducement to superior workers to enter the profession and a reward for their labours in training thoroughly. That failing the arrangement of lectures or classes in various parts, a correspondence college or class be started, which will include students in the provinces and suburbs.

It may be objected that there are already too many appli-

cants for posts open, but I do not think that there are yet too many good and competent assistants,* and all I contend for is that instead of having to go into a library without in the least knowing whether they are fitted for the work or not—as is at present so often the case—or because they want to begin to earn something, they should have every chance of preparing themselves in the elements required before applying for such posts. In other words, that a preliminary examination be enforced on all future assistants, but that every possible facility be given to students to prepare for such examinations, by which means we shall eventually arrive at the survival of the fittest. At any rate, if the idea of the necessity for special training in this, as in other professions, be kept in view, the popular idea that anyone can be a librarian will be dispelled, and the hateful system of patronage and favouritism in connection with appointments must be abolished forthwith. It is to advantage of library commissioners and librarians to have the best workers that can be got, and it is to the distinct advantage of the workers to make their work so good that salaries must rise in proportion.

M. S. R. JAMES.

* *Vide* Mr. Tedder on "Librarianship as a Profession," *Transactions*, 1881-2, p. 170. ("There is really a great want of qualified candidates, &c., and there is a large field open in librarianship if only young men would add to their previous acquirements a certain amount of technical knowledge.")

A Summer School of Library Science.*

MOST British librarians have been brought into tolerably close contact with the University Extension movement these few years past, and many are familiar with the "Summer School" development of that movement, but one may be pardoned for leading up to the subject of this paper by a brief account of the movement which suggested it to the writer's mind. The facts are chiefly drawn from Messrs. Mackinder and Sadler's "University Extension, past, present and future," and they are given, as far as possible, in the words of that book.

"Oxford . . . started the summer meeting in 1888. . . . The idea of a general summer meeting of University Extension students was derived from the assembly held at Chautauqua in the United States. The application of the idea to English conditions was due to a suggestion made by Mr. Charles Rowley, of Manchester, to a small committee which, at the instance of Dr. Paton, of Nottingham, had met to consider the possibility of introducing into England a system of Reading Circles, similar in point of arrangement to those which centre in the assembly at Chautauqua.

"It was at once felt that, by means of a summer meeting in one of the University towns, the Extension movement would be able to avail itself of the services of those resident teachers who, though friendly to the work, are prevented by their University duties from taking any active part in it as lecturers. The plan would furnish an opportunity for an excellent use of the scholarships previously offered by Mr. J. G. Talbot, M.P., and others, to enable deserving University Extension students to reside in Oxford for a short period of vacation study. The students would enjoy the great advantage offered by the University museums, collections and libraries, and would gain stimulus from their intercourse with one another. In short, the meeting would introduce into University Extension the one element in which, from the University point of view, it had been chiefly lacking—the element of 'residence.'

* Read at the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Paris, September, 1892.

"The idea of the Summer Meeting was at once taken up in Oxford, where already on a small scale arrangements had been made during the Long Vacations of some previous years for the accommodation within college walls of elementary schoolmasters and others."

"The first University Extension Summer Meeting was held in August, 1888. In 1890 Cambridge commenced similar meetings. According to Dr. Roberts (*Eighteen Years of University Extension*), the first Cambridge Summer Meeting 'included practical work in the chemical and physical laboratories on alternate mornings, a practical class on palæontology for geological students, and courses on Greek art, architecture and other branches that could be illustrated by the collections in the University Museums. . . . The design of the Oxford Delegates has been somewhat different from that of the Cambridge Syndicate. While only forty-one students assembled at Cambridge, the number of persons who attended the Oxford gatherings has been about nine hundred, for whom a large number of short courses of lectures on a variety of subjects, together with conferences, excursions, and social meetings, were held. . . . Oxford welcomes all who care to come to her summer gathering. . . . The courses of lectures are of general interest and designed to meet the most varied tastes. The plan of Cambridge, on the other hand, is to limit her invitation to those most earnest students who, having obtained certificates in connection with the courses of lectures during the winter, desire to supplement their theoretical knowledge by practical work in the laboratories and museums.' This difference in the plans of the two Universities, however, seems less marked now than formerly, for Oxford has latterly divided her meetings into two parts, the second part being reserved for students of the kind formerly catered for by Cambridge only. Oxford has also improved her scheme by grouping the courses of instruction into sequences extending over four years.

"But," say Messrs. Mackinder and Sadler, "by far the most striking advance of the year 1890-91 has been in America . . . with characteristic enthusiasm and energy. . . . Pennsylvania and New York have, in a single session, done such work as entitles them to rank with the Oxford, Cambridge and London organisations." Librarians will be pleased to learn that a librarian whom we all know and respect, Mr. Melvil Dewey, is one of the principal leaders and workers in this Transatlantic

University Extension Movement. Hence no one need be surprised that "Summer Schools of Library Economy" have been established in several of the larger Public Libraries of the United States, where persons are received on certain conditions for a few weeks' instruction and practice in library methods and library work, with a view to fitting them to discharge efficiently the duties of library assistants in the future, and eventually to take up the profession of a chief librarian.

The imperfect information to hand prevents any description being given of the American Summer Schools for Librarians, but instruction in cataloguing seems to hold a prominent place in the curriculum of each, and from what we know of the School of Library Economy we may be sure that a thorough knowledge of the material equipment of a library is aimed at in all the teaching given. Then, why may we not have in England our Summer School of Library Science, with its courses of lectures and demonstrations to librarians and library assistants? But those parts of library science—concerning which the librarian of a public library feels it a disgrace to be ignorant—although under present circumstances it is difficult for him to amend his ignorance—those parts of library knowledge, rather than the mechanical part thereof, should have the first place in our "Summer School" courses. Could there not be something established on the lines of the "Summer School of Theology," which has lately been brought to a successful termination in Oxford?

Towards the end of last July a large number of men who had been already trained to the business of preachers and pastors, and many of whom had been years in active work, assembled in Oxford to hear some of the most advanced thinkers of the day discourse on the Higher Criticism, and the many theological questions which have been fermenting in men's minds of late years. The prospectus announced that "lectures will be delivered, designed to meet the wants of men who feel that the ordinary work of the ministry has not allowed them to keep abreast of the later inquiries and discussions in the field of Theology, Biblical, Apologetic and Dogmatic." Canon Driver, Dr. Marcus Dods, Dr. Sandy, Dr. Fairbairn, and others equally eminent, occupied the lecture halls and pulpits of Oxford for this purpose, and the meetings were a great success.

Specialised vacation studies have also, for the sixth time, been lately provided for at Edinburgh University. The subject

of education has been comprehensively treated, including the much talked about and little understood subject of Technical Education, in a series of lectures and visits extending over several weeks.

Surely, then, it is practicable for the Library Association to arrange for similar work adapted to the needs of public librarians, and if practicable, desirable also. Let it be supposed this is agreed to, and that the Council has received its instructions and has organised a Summer School of Library Science. We are now, let us suppose, at the year 1897. It is June: thirty or forty young men and a few young women, all library assistants in big towns, or librarians in smaller towns, have come up to London for a week's instruction. The Committees of the various libraries represented have agreed to pay their expenses on production of certificates of attendance at the lectures upon their return. It is Monday morning and 10 o'clock: Dr. Garnett of the British Museum is just commencing a lecture on the "Great Libraries of Antiquity." At 11 o'clock he will be followed by Mr. H. R. Tedder on the "Growth of the Modern Public Library Movement." At 12 o'clock the students will disperse, to re-assemble at 2.30 p.m. for visits to the Guildhall Library and to a typical Metropolitan Free Library. On Tuesday morning Dr. Maunde Thompson will discourse on "The Leading Principles by which the Age of Manuscripts is Determined," and Mr. Pollard on "Some Features of Early Printed Books." The afternoon will be devoted to a personal inspection of a few selected MSS. and incunabula at the British Museum.

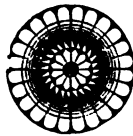
Wednesday morning is set apart for a lecture by Mr. Gordon Duff on the "Invention and Early Spread of Printing," and another on "Fifteenth Century Types" by Mr. Talbot Reed. The afternoon will be occupied in a visit to the "Blades Library," which by this time it is supposed will be accessible to the public.

On Thursday our students will assemble to hear Mr. Trueman Wood on "Modern Methods of Book Illustration," and Mr. W. M. Conway on "Fifteenth Century Blocks." The afternoon visit on this day will be to a large engraving and lithographic establishment. Friday will be given up to lectures on the History and Manufacture of Printing Paper, Stereotyping, and Modern Improvements in Printing, with visits to a paper mill and a printing office. On Saturday morning the

course is to be concluded by lectures on "Historic Styles in Bookbinding," by Mr. Salt Brasington, and on the "Proper Decoration of a Book Cover," by Mr. William Morris.

It may be objected that an hour is too short a time for any profitable instruction in certain of the subjects named for lectures. Yet surely some good elementary principles can be inculcated in that time, and, which is equally important, a mental stimulus given to the prosecution of the subjects dealt with in ways which the lecturers could very well indicate to those who attended their lectures. The afternoon visits would certainly be the very best of object lessons, and would inspire a respect for the written roll or printed book, which could not but have a wholesome influence on the management of the libraries to which the summer scholars were ultimately appointed.

J. J. OGLE.



Remainders.

THE difference between expectation and realisation, great in all things, is in nothing greater than in literature. I have had one or two says about book-titles, ill and well-chosen, changing and misleading, but it seems to me that not only Charles Dickens' novel, but every author's every work, is "Great Expectations" at first, and is intended to become "Heaps of Money" when introduced to "All Sorts and Conditions of Men," but often proves a "Nine Days' Wonder," if not "Good for Nothing."

In a paper on "Library Surplusage," which I read in 1885, I remarked that over 50,000 copies of new novels, annually, are found to be too many for the libraries that have bought them, and are resold at a sixth of their cost. But all these count as author's successes, as they have once been sold and paid for at full price. I am now considering the remainders, which failed to get sold, and not novels only, but in all departments of literature—a mass estimated to amount to not less than 300,000 volumes annually. Of all these, doubtless, their authors have had fond visions of second editions and complete selling out, but these have been dispelled.

But in order to thoroughly pummel the vanity out of an author, he must be sent to Chancery Lane, to the well-known auction rooms at a remainder sale, where he will very likely see his works tied up in bundles of 50 to 100 copies each, and Mr. Hodgson's genial face appear in the pulpit, preaching to a small but earnest congregation on the vanity of literary expectations. No author is too respectable and dignified, no work too standard and important, to come under that hammer, by which thick prices are beaten out thin—very thin sometimes, for as little as one-eighth of a penny per copy has been known to be given for a large remainder of a book in quires, when it has been doubtful whether the waste paper merchant had better not have it. But, knocking down by Mr. Hodgson is but one, and a preliminary mode of execution of the remainder. Far more are privately made away with by the pub-

lishers, and as far as novels in two or three volumes are concerned, their funeral knell is rung out by two Bells. A visit to the remainder warehouse of Messrs. F. & G. Bell, trading as Miles & Co., Upper Street, Islington, will show stacks of remainders amounting to not less than 80,000 volumes, and as many as 65,000 volumes are sold by this one firm in a year. These "Merry Bells of Islington" play to the tune of the sale of many thousands of pounds' worth of remainders in a year. Here is a piling up and dispersing of authors' hopes and readers' food. Other firms—Mr. Glaisher, of Holborn; Grant, of Edinburgh; and W. H. Smith & Sons, of the Strand—also do large business of this kind.

The subject of nominal and actual prices, discount and nett books, has often been discussed; but in addition to all these forms of original prices, the remainder man must be taken into account, and often his pricing is more nearly the true value of the book than any other. This sounds very shocking in connection with the low prices I have before mentioned. But some of the remainders are very large. The year before last, one of 8,500 copies of an edition of Shakespeare's *Songs*, illustrated with chromos by Sir John Gilbert, was sold—a thoroughly good and attractive book, but the publisher had miscalculated the demand for it to the trifling extent of 8,500 copies. It does not so much surprise us when 50,000 volumes of Hansard's *Parliamentary Debates* could find no bidder, nor when 65,000 of Myra's shilling *Hand-books* were sold. But in 1891, 20,000 volumes of English translations of the works of the greatest modern French novelists had to be sold as remainders. It would seem that the vivacity and spirit of French fiction need the language of vivacity and spirit by which it may be flashed to the reader, and will not bear the duller and more sober-coloured medium of the English tongue.

Large remainders have existed from very early times. In the 17th century it seemed to be the destiny of a great mass of literature to be interred with the illustrious dead in the vaults of St. Paul's Cathedral, for £200,000 worth of books in quires were stowed away there; but the great Fire of London came, and cremation was their unexpected fate. Other modes of disposal attend remainders now, drowning and maceration in the pulp-vat of the paper maker being a not infrequent one. But it must not be concluded that its appearance as a remainder always shows that it has come to a melancholy end. Whose

are the names of the authors you see on the shelves of the remainder dealers' warehouse? Besant, Carlyle, Froude, Anthony Trollope, George Macdonald, Oliphant, Payn, Norris, Meredith.

These are not dead names, but very much alive indeed. Still further, we see Shakespeare, Byron, and Burns' works, Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, *Robinson Crusoe*, works which will see out several more centuries besides this closing one. There are remainders of editions of the Bible (there was a very large one of the Revised New Testament), of atlases, dictionaries and other works by no means ephemeral, and even of the Cambridge Transactions of the Library Association. Ashley's *Life of Palmerston*, Oliphant's *Literary History of England*, and Lady Burton's *Arabian Nights* are to the fore at the present time. All standard works, yet remainders.

The first publication of novels is usually in three volumes, but if there is to be a great and permanent demand there must be a one-volume edition. "Hope told a flattering tale," in three volumes, but realisation always comes in a cheap edition. Then the remainder-man comes in between and clears out the three-volume edition.

Sometimes the three-volume edition afterwards becomes scarce and valuable, from the author's death or other causes. An instance of this occurred in the case of *Bevis*, by Richard Jefferies. Messrs. Miles cleared out 223 copies of this work at 7½d. per copy in quires, and now this edition fetches £1 a copy. *Mehalah*, by Baring Gould, and *Mademoiselle de Mersac*, by W. E. Norris, also became worth much more than at first. *Through Flood and Flame*, by Baring Gould, and *Desperate Remedies*, by Thomas Hardy—each published in three volumes anonymously, but afterwards acknowledged—now fetch a high price.

I have record of one paradoxical case of a work being offered as a remainder that had never been published at all. In a difference between author and publisher, it had been thrown on the publisher's hands, and so presents us with the peculiar arithmetical result of taking something from nothing, and having a remainder. We also, not unfrequently, have remainders of remainders, and so on *ad infinitum*. The publisher sells a remainder to A, who sells a great portion of it, and when he finds it sticks on hand, puts his remainder on the market again. B buys it this time, and does the best he can with it with his clients, then sells what is left, and C buys it, and so on.

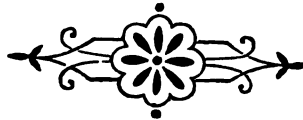
The father of the remainder trade was James Lackington, who about the year 1780, being in business in Finsbury, says: "When first invited to the trade sales, I was very much surprised to learn that it was common for such as purchased remainders to destroy one-half or three-fourths of such books, and to charge the full publication price, or nearly that, for such as they kept on hand; and there was a kind of standing order amongst the trade that in case anyone was known to sell articles under the publication price, such a person was to be excluded from trade sales, so blind were copyright holders to their own interest. After a bit I resolved not to destroy any books which were worth saving, but to sell them off at half or a quarter of the publication prices." "Of course," says Chas. Knight, from whom I quote, "he was reviled, his ruin was prognosticated, the doors of the trade sale-rooms were shut against him, but there were plenty of indirect modes of supplying him with remainders." "By selling them in this cheap manner," he says, "I have disposed of many hundred thousand volumes, many thousands of which were intrinsically worth their original prices."

From Lackington's time to a few years ago, the annual trade dinner sales of the publishers were the chosen opportunities for disposing of the remainders, and sometimes the generous beverages led to reckless purchases, and these again to failure to pay when the bills came due. Things are done in more sober style now. The regular remainder buyer is generally the most satisfactory to deal with for disposing of the edition, for when his offer is not thought sufficient, and an appeal to the auctioneer is made, it generally proves a going further and faring worse—though probably, under no circumstances, would an author be found who thought the proceeds quite equal to the merits of his work.

It does happen, occasionally, that a remainder fetches less in cloth than in quires, thus showing that books are sometimes worth less than waste paper. When the cost of production is shared between author and publisher, the necessity for settling up accounts between them will generally require the invocation of the remainder-man at a comparatively early period; but the need for cash and for space is the most frequent cause. Some remainders are sold together with copyright and stereotype plates. The purchaser then becomes the publisher, very likely being far more successful than the original one. This was the case with *Chronicles of Crime*, illustrated by Phiz, now published by Miles & Co.

We now come to the practice of dishing up remainders with new title pages as new editions—a practice most reprehensible and not a little indulged in. Old fellows, regularly “on the shelf,” veritable remainders, but furnished by tonsorial or other art with newly-cut frontispieces, sometimes with titles, are to be met with in others besides literary spheres. A recent trial has brought this matter under our immediate notice, and in this case we find that the defendant republished his remainder with a new title page and fresh date, and omitted from the work its preface, table of contents, introduction, bibliographical notice and index. Well might the author bring an action for injured reputation. Well might he rage and fume at finding sent into the world under his name this decrepit remainder, which like Shakespeare’s seventh age, is, at least in the librarian’s eyes, “sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.”

JOSEPH GILBURT.



The Free Library Movement in the County of Kent.

THOSE who are watching with interest the spread of the Free Library Movement in this country, must be struck by the great difference observable between the Northern and Southern provinces. The Northern and Midland counties have gone ahead in the matter of free libraries with surprising quickness, until there is now scarcely a town or city of any size that has not a public library, and in some places half-a-dozen branches besides. They have their own associations of librarians, and in everything connected with library management have taken high place. But it is not so in the South. London is only just waking up to its responsibilities, the bulk of the libraries established in and around it, at the present time, being the growth of the past six years, and still there are large parishes in its midst where ignorance, apathy, and self-interest are waging war against the movement, and hindering what they cannot destroy.

South of the Thames, things are even worse. Here, if there is any movement at all, it is so slow and so feeble as to be almost imperceptible. One might almost tell off the number of free libraries throughout the three counties of Surrey, Kent, and Sussex, upon one's fingers.

Taking one of these counties by itself, and studying it a little more closely in relation to this question, the result is anything but gratifying. The total population of the county of Kent in 1881 was nearly a million, and is now probably far in excess of that number. But according to the list of libraries given in the Year Book of the Library Association for 1891, Kent is credited with only seven free libraries throughout its entire area. The following are the names of the places, the date of the establishment of the library, and the estimated population of each place according to the Census returns of 1881 :—

Maidstone	...	established	1855,	population	30,000.
Canterbury	...	"	1858	"	21,000.
Folkestone	...	"	1878	"	19,000.
Tonbridge	...	"	1882	"	9,000.
Sittingbourne	...	"	1887	"	8,000.
Queenborough	...	"	1887	"	982.
Lewisham	...	"	1890	"	53,000.

But the ridiculous disproportion between the number of libraries and the size of the county becomes more apparent by a glance at the map. Leaving London and proceeding down the Thames, the following densely populated places are passed.

Deptford, a ship-building centre, with a population of 76,000, of which 67,000 are in Kent and the remainder in Surrey; the town of Greenwich with 46,000 inhabitants; Woolwich and Plumstead numbering together 70,000.

Then comes the town of Gravesend,* a busy place with 31,000 inhabitants, and so on to the Government port of Sheerness, where the numbers are 14,000, or to Chatham and its neighbour, Rochester, with a total of 67,000.

Here, then, we have seven places, with a total population of nearly 300,000, and not a public library amongst them.

But the voyage might be extended to Ramsgate, Margate, Deal and Dover, and the above figures be swelled by another 65,000; or striking inland the traveller might pass through large towns such as Ashford, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Faversham, and Dartford, each having over 7,000 inhabitants. Of course I do not mean to say that these places are without any libraries at all, most of them probably have literary institutes or parochial clubs of some kind with small collections of books, but these are private rather than public libraries.

If any other evidence were needed to prove the vigour of the North of England as compared with the apathy of the South, it is furnished by comparing the above figures with those furnished by the county of Staffordshire. The population of both is so nearly equal that in 1881 the difference was only between three and four thousand in favour of the Northern county. Yet it can boast of having at least twenty places with free public libraries.

It is true, that in one or two places in Kent attempts have from time to time been made to get the Acts adopted; but the results only go to prove still more forcibly the necessity for strong organisation on the part of the upholders of the movement. At Deptford the proposal was rejected two years ago by a majority of 666, only 4,200 votes being recorded out of 11,400 papers issued. On February 7th, 1891, a poll was taken at Greenwich resulting in an adverse majority of 959, the number of votes polled being nearly the same as at Deptford. What the voting power of the town is I do not know, but it must be nearly three

* Since this article was written, Gravesend has adopted the Act.—ED.

times the number actually dropped into the ballot box, and it is impossible to look upon this poll as in any sense a true test of the feelings of the town on so important a subject as the foundation of a free library.

Ashford and Bromley have also passed resolutions in favour of free libraries, and the latter place has recently been successfully polled, and will before long add another library to the above list. But at present we are seven, and no more.

I can only speak of one of these from personal knowledge. In the course of one or two hurried visits to Canterbury I have now and again spent an hour in the free library there, and I am bound to say that in my opinion it is unworthy of the title. In what I have to say of it, I wish to put nothing down in malice. My visits were short, I asked no questions, and I may have overlooked much.

The library occupies the ground floor of the building, the upper part of which is the City museum. On the left of the entrance hall is the reading room, on the right of it the news room. The reading room is formed of two rooms thrown into one by the removal of folding doors, and has a large window reaching to the ceiling at each end. Both parts of the room have a fireplace, and the total measurement of the apartment is about 18ft. from window to window and 14ft. from door to fireplace, certainly not much more, and this area is still further reduced by the projecting walls in the centre. In that part of the room first entered is the librarian's desk and table. This takes up a good deal of space, and beyond a seat in the window there is no accommodation for readers.

The other part has a table, I should think eight feet by four, capable of seating ten persons comfortably—perhaps twelve at a pinch. Under the window is a smaller table at which certainly not more than four persons could sit. So that if twenty people were in this room at one time it would be crowded to excess. The room is fairly lofty, but the shelf accommodation is very much cut up. The walls over the fireplaces are filled with old portraits.

The news room is, I believe, the same size as the reading room, but looks larger, because it has no projecting walls to reduce its length. It has one table, at which some eighteen or twenty people could sit, but the walls and floors are lumbered up with objects belonging to the museum.

I cannot tell you how many volumes this library has, but it

certainly is not rich in works of reference, and with the solitary exception of local topography seems to be very much out of date in all branches of literature. For local books, however, it can be strongly recommended to anyone visiting the city, as it has a very good collection, from the first edition of Somner's *Antiquities of Canterbury* down to Mr. J. Meadows Cowper's most recent work on the parochial registers, besides many books on Kentish topography in general.

The catalogue, the last edition of which is dated 1883, is compiled in a way that would not, I am afraid, please the Library Association. It is classified under subjects and authors, but dates of publication are only given in one or two instances, whilst the works of a writer of fiction are scattered, some under his name and the remainder under the subject heading "Fiction." But as I am not a librarian, perhaps I had better leave off criticising this catalogue before I get out of my depth, though I must say I should like to know whether the compiler of it was right when he catalogued Dickens' *American Notes* and Jules Verne's *Fur Country* under geography?

The library is a lending one, and perhaps the authorities consider that as readers are privileged to take books home, there is no need of larger premises, but I think you will agree with me that for a city of 21,000 inhabitants, a free library with accommodation for only 50 readers—and that is putting it at a very high figure indeed—is hardly up to its requirements.

But when I tell you that the streets of Canterbury are filled every night with soldiers from the barracks, servant girls and shop assistants, you will see what an opening there is for an active library in the city.

When opening the North Kensington Library in October last, Sir John Lubbock said that he hoped before long every part of London and every town in England would have its Free Library. The state of the county of Kent shows that there is plenty of work to be done before that happy times arrives. The watchword of all of us who have that end in view must be "organisation," thorough and far reaching, not only to spread the light, but to ensure that when a poll is taken the bulk of the rate-payers of the district shall drop their papers either for good or for bad into the ballot box, and not, as at Deptford, only four thousand out of a possible eleven thousand.

HENRY R. PLOMER.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR THE YEAR 1891-2.

IN congratulating the Association upon one of the most important and successful years of its existence, the Council feel that although much has been accomplished, much still remains to be done, and they trust that the members will not rest satisfied with the record of the past twelve months, but rather strive to make the year to come even more fruitful.

MEMBERSHIP.

The list of members now includes 27 Honorary, 32 Life, and 448 Ordinary members—a total of 507.

The Council, desiring to recognize the eminent services of Sir John Lubbock to the Public Library Movement, proposed on December 14th, 1891, that he should be elected an Honorary Member. He was accordingly elected by a unanimous vote of the Association.

On receiving the announcement of his election Sir John Lubbock wrote thanking the Association for the honour it had done him, and expressing the gratification he felt that his work in connection with libraries was appreciated by the Members of the Association.

OBITUARY.

Perhaps the most severe blow the Association has received since its foundation has been the untimely death of Mr. E. C. Thomas, on Feb. 5th of this year. It is unnecessary to recapitulate the story of his life, which was briefly told in *The Library* for March, 1892, but the Council cannot allow the occasion to pass without recording their deep sorrow at the loss of an attached friend and colleague. Mr. Thomas was actively engaged in the welfare of the Association from its foundation. He became joint Secretary with Mr. Tedder in 1879, and between 1882 and 1887 bore on his shoulders the entire burden of our affairs. It was not until 1890 that he finally quitted the office which he had filled for eleven years with credit to himself and benefit to

the Association. The Council think a tribute is due on their part to the memory of a man who not only gave up to the well-being of Librarians and Librarianship the promise of a brilliant professional and literary career, without hope or thought of personal profit or distinction, but who endeared himself to all of our members by unvarying courtesy and the best qualities of a thoroughly honourable and highminded English gentleman.

The sad death of Mr. Edward Ayton Holme-Kay, Librarian of the Baillie Institution, Glasgow, which occurred at Nottingham, shortly after the conclusion of the annual meeting there, was keenly felt by all who knew him personally, or were interested in the promise of his career. His amiable nature had endeared him to his associates, and his loss under very sorrowful circumstances will long be remembered.

A quaint figure passed away in March of the present year, in the person of Mr. Robert Major Holborn, of Highbury, London, who was a keen supporter of the Association, and a generous donor to several of its objects.

Still another genial member was lost by the recent death of Bailie William Wilson, late chairman of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, and ex-Preceptor of Hutcheson's Hospital in that city. He distinguished himself in Glasgow by services in connection with the Mitchell Library, and will doubtless be well-remembered by all who were at the Association dinner at Ayr for his humorous address as chairman.

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

These have been regularly held, and the attendance has been good.

At the October Meeting held at Hanover Square, Mr. J. D. Brown read a paper on a "Critical Analysis of the Association's Work, 1877-1891, with suggestions for future operations," and a second paper was read by Mr. MacAlister, entitled "Can Mudie help the Public Libraries? a practical note."

At the November Meeting, Mr. J. H. Quinn read a paper, "On a Card Charging System for Free Libraries."

At the December Meeting, a paper was read by Mr. E. M. Borrajo on "The Municipal Libraries of Paris."

The January Meeting was held at the Chelsea Central Library, when the report of the Committee on Size-Notation was discussed, and Mr. J. H. Quinn read a paper on the work of the Chelsea Public Libraries.

At the February Meeting held at Hanover Square, the discussion on Size-Notation was resumed.

The March Meeting was held at the People's Palace, when a paper by Miss James, the librarian, was read on "A Year's Work in the People's Palace Library, 1891."

The April Monthly Meeting was held at Hanover Square, when the arrangements for the Annual Meeting were discussed.

At the May Meeting, Mr. Hew Morrison read a paper on "The Edinburgh Public Library and its first year's work."

At the June Meeting Mr. David Stott read a paper on "Booksellers' Discount to Free Libraries."

MUSEUM.

The decision of the Council to form a Museum of everything relating to libraries and their working has been acted upon, and the collection of specimens was commenced immediately after the Nottingham meeting. A circular inviting contributions of printed forms, models, stationery, &c., was sent out to all the members of the Association, and though only a few have as yet responded, the Council cherish the hope that before another year has passed the Museum will contain a specimen of every form or appliance used in the Libraries of the United Kingdom. At present the Museum contains a fair number of minor appliances, contributed chiefly by manufacturers, and is housed in the Clerkenwell Public Library, London, E.C., where it may be seen at any time. A list of the articles which it is desirable to have represented was issued with the circular previously mentioned, and the Council would strongly urge upon members the importance of forming a complete permanent collection of the apparatus from which so much aid is obtained in modern library work. A considerable number of librarians, commissioners, and persons interested in libraries have visited the collection since December, 1891, and there is no doubt that an increased use of the Museum as a means of suggestion and education would follow the establishment of a larger and more complete representation of apparatus.

THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACTS (ENGLAND).

Members are already aware of what has been done in this department of the Association's objects, but it is useful to record in the Annual Reports a summary of the year's work.

It was reported last year that the Committee on Legislation had requested Mr. E. L. Fanshawe to prepare a Draft Bill consolidating all the existing Library Acts for England. A Bill was drafted, and the Committee held several meetings to consider in detail all the clauses of the Draft. Many amendments were proposed and discussed, but in regard to some of the more important it was felt that under the existing circumstances it would be unwise to press their inclusion, and it was finally decided that the Bill should be in effect merely a consolidation, with such amendments of construction and interpretation as might safely be introduced in such a Bill, and that the amendments desired by the Committee should be urged upon the attention of Parliament after the second reading.

Sir John Lubbock was asked to take charge of the Bill, and at once agreed to do so, and it is chiefly to his assiduous attention that the Association is indebted for carrying so considerable a measure through an expiring Parliament.

The Rt. Hon. John Morley, Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Justin McCarthy, and Mr. Francis Sharp Powell (now Sir Francis Sharp Powell, Bart.), joined with Sir John Lubbock in backing the Bill.

When the Bill had passed the second reading a number of amendments were proposed by various members on behalf of the Association, and were discussed by the Select Committee to which the Bill had been referred. Some of these were rejected, but several of considerable importance were accepted, and the Bill became law on June 27th, 1892.

From the beginning the Association has included among its objects the reform of Public Library law, but from various causes all previous attempts at legislation have failed. Consequently the Council regard this piece of work with peculiar gratification, not only for its immediate intrinsic value, but as an earnest of the reforms that may be achieved in the future by continuing to work on similar lines. They gladly avail themselves of this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the valuable services rendered by the Legislation Committee in accomplishing their important task.

The Council conveyed to Sir John Lubbock the cordial thanks of the Association for his invaluable services in piloting the Bill through the House of Commons, and awarded a special vote of thanks to Mr. MacAlister for his arduous labours in connection with this important piece of work.

PUBLICATIONS.

THE LIBRARY.—The Council regret that the hitherto uninterrupted punctuality of their official organ has during the last few months not been kept up. The causes are already known to members, and it is only necessary to say that so far as the editor is concerned no blame attaches to him. Difficulties as to publication culminated towards the end of 1891, and Mr. MacAlister felt himself compelled to sever his connection with Mr. Stock. Much worry as well as increased work and pecuniary loss were involved in the change, and the Council feel that the Association is much indebted to Mr. MacAlister for his perseverance and courage in continuing his self-imposed task. They are glad to be able to report that he has now surmounted most of his difficulties, and that they hope *The Library* will shortly resume its wonted punctuality with every prospect of continuance.

THE MANUAL.—Part I. of the *Public Library Manual*, including three sections—viz., "Legislation," "Staff," and "Appliances"—was ready for press when the passing of the new library act rendered the "Legislation" section to a large extent obsolete, and it was decided not to publish it in the form originally intended. As, however, the work done by Messrs. Fovargue and Ogle will always be of value to students of library law, it was decided to issue a limited number for sale to the members and the public, and to publish the two other sections separately. This necessity suggested a change of plan, which the Council have authorized the editors to carry out. It seemed a pity that the work of those contributors who had finished their sections should be kept back indefinitely because of the delay in finishing others, and the plan of issuing the sections in parts had the disadvantage of assuming the publication of a complete work that might never be finished. The proposal therefore now adopted is to issue the sections as a series of "Handbooks." This possesses many advantages over the old plan, and does not preclude the Council, when the series is complete, from re-issuing the whole in one volume.

Mr. J. D. Brown's *Handbook of Library Appliances* has accordingly been published as the first number of the new series.

Mr. Cowell's treatise on "Staff" was ready for press, and would have been issued also, but for his desire to render it still more complete by an appendix which is in preparation.

THE YEAR BOOK.—A new edition of this important publication has been issued. It is a great improvement upon the last, and contains several new features which will be much appreciated by members; notably the careful list by Messrs. MacAlister and Brown of all the papers and reports that have been published by the Association, and Mr. Brown's admirable index thereto. This is a long-desired piece of work well done. The chronological list of annual meetings, with the names of presidents and places of meeting, the list of publications with prices, and the syllabuses of the examinations, with specimen questions, are also useful.

PROGRESS OF THE LIBRARY MOVEMENT.

The adoptions of the Public Libraries Acts during the year ending August, 1892, although fewer than those mentioned in the last Report of the Council, still show a steady increase, while the rejections for the period named are happily fewer in proportion. Within the county of London two places only have adopted the Acts, namely:

Penge, 1891. St. Saviour's, Southwark, Nov., 1891.

The adoptions in the immediate neighbourhood of the county of London were:

Edmonton, Oct., 1891.	Walthamstow, Feb., 1892.
Tottenham, Oct., 1891.	Enfield, Mar., 1892.
Leyton, Nov., 1891.	Bromley (Kent), May, 1892.

In the English provinces the adoptions were:

Colchester, Sept., 1891.	Lincoln, Jan., 1892.
York, Oct., 1891.	

In Scotland the only adoption was:

Jedburgh, May, 1892.

In all, twelve places have availed themselves of the provisions of the Acts, and only two districts have refused to adopt them, namely:

Gainsborough in 1891, and Marylebone (London) in 1892.

In several other towns the question has been brought forward with some hope of ultimate success, and it may be confidently expected that the next report of the Council will show even greater progress.

New buildings, or adaptations of old buildings, have been opened for library purposes at:

Aberdeen.	Lewisham.
Ayr.	Manchester.

Bermondsey.	Nottingham (Radford).
Birmingham.	Penge.
Brechin.	Plymouth.
Handsworth.	Stoke Newington.
Holborn.	Swansea (Ireboeth).
Kensington.	Whitechapel.

EXAMINATIONS.

The first examination under the new scheme was held in June, when seven candidates offered themselves—with the result that one obtained a certificate in French and English in the Professional, and one a certificate in the Preliminary examination.

DONATIONS.

The thanks of the Association are due to the United States Bureau of Education for a generous gift of 236 copies of Cutter's *Cataloguing Rules* for the use of members, in view of the discussion which it is proposed to hold during the Paris Meeting.

Another valuable gift was received in the shape of a large parcel of *State Library Bulletin*: No. 1, *Library School*, from the New York State Library. This Bulletin contains a complete account of the organization of the Library School, over which Professor Melvil Dewey, one of our honorary members, so ably presides.

For both these gifts the Council, on behalf of the Association, returned cordial thanks.

FINANCE.

The Treasurer reports :—

“The Accounts are presented in the same form as adopted last year, namely :—(A) The Income and Expenditure for the completed year, 1891 ; (B) a Balance Sheet of Liabilities and Assets at the end of December, 1891 ; and (C) a Statement of the Estimated Income and Expenditure for the present year (1892).

“It was calculated last year that there would be a surplus of income over expenditure at the end of December of £83 15s. 6d. As the actual surplus was £80 os. 2d. it will be seen that this estimate was a very close one. There are, of course, variations in detail on both sides of the account. The income from annual subscriptions was £416 17s. in 1891. Even allowing

for new members attracted by the meeting at Paris, we can only reckon to receive a little over £400 during the present year. The expenditure in 1892 will also much exceed that of 1891. The items of printing, stationery and petty cash will be high, and there will be some extra expense in connexion with the Paris gathering. Altogether, instead of a surplus, we must look for a trifling deficit on the working of the present year. The amount of cash at the Post Office Savings Bank and at the Association's Bankers will not be much reduced, but it must be carefully kept in view that the pecuniary affairs of a body like the Association can only be satisfactorily conducted on the understanding that the year's expenditure shall not be permitted to exceed the income of the same period.

"The Council resolved, December 23rd, 1891, to continue for another year the resolution of January 22nd, 1891, to pay 6d. apiece for copies of *The Library*. The amount invested in Consols is now £250, of which the sum of £40 was purchased in July, 1892. The cost of these investments (of which £221 11s. are required by the constitution to be put aside as representing Life Subscriptions) has been £246 4s.

"The amount of the sum credited to the Benevolent Fund remains at £15 15s. 3d. No grants have been made during the year, and no subscriptions have been received."

AUDITORS' REPORT.

We have to report that we have examined the Treasurer's account of the Income and Expenditure of the Association for the year ending 31st December, 1891, also the Balance Sheet of Liabilities and Assets at the last-named date, and after comparing them with the Treasurer's books and vouchers we find the same correct.

We have further examined the estimated account (C) for the year 1892, and believe that it fairly states the expectation as to Income and Expenditure for the current year.

GEO. R. HUMPHERY,	} <i>Auditors.</i>
T. J. AGAR, Chartered Accountant,	

18th August, 1892.



The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

A. Account of Income and Expenditure for the year 1891.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Life Subscription (reserved for investment per contra)	15 15 0	Life Subscription reserved for investment... <i>The Library</i> supplied to Members for twelve months, including postage.....	15 15 0
Annual Subscriptions for the year 1891.....	416 17 0	Rent of Offices, Hanover Square, one year	175 6 10
Dividends on Consols and Interest from Post Office Savings Bank	5 0 9	General Printing, Binding and Stationery for the year	40 0 0
Sale of Publications, less proportion credited to Stock.....	10 14 6	Public Libraries Bill :— Parliamentary Draftsman's Fee.....	66 12 5
Rent of Offices from Sub-tenants	22 10 0	Clerical Assistance for the year.....	33 12 0
		Incidental and Petty Expenses, General Postages, &c., &c., for the year.....	26 10 0
			33 0 10
		Balance--Surplus of Income for the year 1891	390 17 1
			80 0 2
	<u>£470 17 3</u>		<u>£470 17 3</u>

HENRY R. TEDDER, *Treasurer*,

B. Balance Sheet of Liabilities and Assets at the 31st December, 1891.

342

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
Life Members' Subscriptions required by the Constitution to be invested	£	s. d.	Investment £210, 2½ per Cent. Consols at cost.....	£	s. d.
Annual Subscriptions for 1892 received in advance	221	11 0	Cash at Post Office Savings Bank.....	207	9 0
Benevolent Fund—Amount at credit	16	16 0	Cash at Bankers	25	2 10
Sundry Accounts owing by the Association 31st December, 1891, included in Account "A," viz. :—	15	15 3	Estimated for Subscriptions overdue	133	11 2
<i>The Library</i>	£	s. d.	Office Fixtures.....	4	4 0
Rent	29	7 9	Stock of the Association's Publications, estimated to realize.....	5	15 0
Parliamentary Draftsman's Fee.....	10	0 0		40	0 0
Printers' Accounts	33	12 0			
Sundries.....	12	16 2			
	1	8 4			
	87	4 3			
	341	6 6			
Balance, being Surplus of Assets in favour of the Association, in addition to £221 11s. Life Members' Subscriptions	74	15 6			
Note.—This Surplus consists of :—					
Surplus of Income for 1891, as per Account "A,"	80	0 2			
Less Deficiency in Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1890	5	4 8			
	74	15 6			
	£416	2 0			£416 2 0

C. *Estimated Income and Expenditure Account for the Year 1892.*

ESTIMATED INCOME.			ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
Annual Subscriptions	406	13 0	<i>The Library</i> to be supplied to Members for twelve months, including postage and an extra number 186 0 0		
Dividends and Interest	6	6 6			
Rent of Offices from Sub-Tenant	25	0 0			
Sale of Publications	4	0 0			
		441 19 6	General Printing, Binding and Stationery...	76	0 0
Estimated excess of Expenditure for 1892		1 0 6	Rent of Offices	40	0 0
			Sundry Expenses, viz. :—		
			Examinations, Clerical Assistance, General Postages, Petty Cash, &c., &c., including special provision for expenses of Annual Meeting at Paris ...	141	0 0
					£443 0 0

HENRY R. TEDDER, *Treasurer.*

Accounts of the L.A.U.K.

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Public Libraries Act, 1892.

IN addition to the consolidation of the Public Libraries Acts, 1855-1890, *seven* in all, the new Public Libraries Act, 1892 (55 and 56 Vic., cap. 53), which comes into operation on the 1st October, 1892, makes some few changes in the law though the many desirable amendments attempted by the Legislation Committee of the Library Association have only in a small measure been adopted, but had the Committee obtained simply a Consolidation Act they would have accomplished a good work.

Perhaps the best features of the Act are the clear definitions of authorities and districts, the removal of contradictions, and generally in making the law as clear on any point as can be expected in an Act of Parliament.

The first four sections are devoted to the application of the Act, to the limitation of the rate, and to the method of procedure for the adoption of the Act, and defines the authority to carry it into execution. The regulations for taking the poll are very clearly put, and no doubt can exist as to the course of procedure.

Sections 5 to 8 relate to the appointment of Commissioners in a parish, the power which Commissioners possess as a body corporate hardly subject to any other authority, remaining unaltered. In the matter of the annual retirement of a third of Commissioners a useful reform has been obtained, the new law being that the Commissioners shall "divide themselves by agreement, or in default of agreement by ballot," into three classes of three each, the first class to retire at the end of the Commissioners' *present* year of office, the second at the end of the second year, and the third at the end of the third year. Hereafter all new Commissioners elected in the stead of those who retire by lapse of time will serve for three years "and no longer" unless of course re-elected, instead of as before when one Commissioner might sit for a lifetime and another for a year only. It will therefore become necessary in October for the present bodies of Commissioners to resolve themselves into these three classes and report the result to the vestry. Casual vacancies are to be filled by the vestry as they occur, and any Commissioner so elected will serve for the residue of the term of the person in whose stead he is elected. It may be noted that the vestry appoints the Commissioners from the "voters" under this act, the word being "ratepayers" in the 1855 act.

Sections 9 and 10 refer to the combination of parishes, neighbouring, adjoining, *or near* ("or near" is new, and admits of a much wider arrangement than formerly), and in the case of such combination not more than *six* Commissioners are to be appointed from *each* parish, the whole to form the library authority from the district. The old law only permitted the appointment of three persons from each parish, thus in the case of two parishes combining there would be a Commission of six at the most, whereas in the case of a single parish the board would consist of nine.

Section 11 provides for the establishment of museums, art galleries, and schools for art and science as well as libraries, as before, but clause 3 is new and reads as follows: "(3) No charge shall be made for admission to a library or museum provided under this Act for any library district, or, in the case of a lending library, for the use thereof by the *inhabitants* of the district; *but the library authority, if they think fit, may grant the use of a lending library to persons not being inhabitants of the district, either gratuitously or for payment.*" This clause ought to prove of great benefit to suburban or rural residents within a reasonable distance of a library under the Act, and it should also prove useful to library authorities in dealing with the matter. It may reasonably be questioned whether "inhabitant" can be interpreted to mean persons who are merely employed in a library district. It is quite a common occurrence in London that borrowers use two libraries, one where they are employed, the other where they reside.

Sections 12 and 13 state the law as to the acquisition of land, by purchase, exchange, or gift, as well as permits the sale of land. By clause 4 of sec. 12 has been obtained the much-needed power of letting a building or part of it or of land secured for the purpose of future extension but not at the time required for the library. Sec. 14 vests all property in the library authority.

Section 15 relates to the general management of institutions under the Act and the law remains much the same as before. By clause 2 of this section an urban authority may delegate to a Committee all or any of its powers, and without such delegation it cannot now be contended that the acts and proceedings of a Committee do not require confirmation by a Town Council.

Section 16 gives power to make agreements for the proportionate share of expenses in the case of combined parishes, and with the governing bodies of libraries established under the jurisdiction of the Charity Commissioners. This will enable library authorities in London to combine with those institutions now being established under the City Parochial Charities Act and others. Section 17 enables the library authority to receive a grant from the Science and Art Department.

Sections 18 to 20 contain the financial provisions, and, unfortunately, in one important respect remain unaltered. The early sections of this act give the voters at the poll the power to vote for the amount of rate up to the penny limit; but it is also required by Section 13 that the Vestry shall, from time to time, sanction the amount to be raised for library purposes, and it is known that Vestries have reduced the income of libraries under the power here given them, in fact, they have every means of rendering the adoption of the act useless. An unsuccessful attempt was made to remove this anomaly. It should be carefully noted that the words "with the like incidents and consequences," inserted in Section 20, give auditors the power of surcharge, and in parishes this surcharge does not fall upon the entire body of Commissioners, as might be supposed, but upon those individual members who sign the cheques. It may be expected that, with this power, the Metropolitan District Auditors will surcharge those Commissioners who annually give a bonus to rate-collectors for collecting the library rate, as its legality is very doubtful. The provision in the 1855 Act requiring Commissioners to furnish vestries with a copy of the auditor's report has been omitted.

Sections 21 and 22 concern the City of London and the Metropolitan District Boards, and call for no special remark. The remainder of the Act is taken up with a definition of terms (including the precise

meaning of "Vestry," which, by the Act of 1890, was unmistakably defined as the "Voters mentioned in this section," *i.e.*, the county council electors), the course to be adopted for the adjustment of interests on ending an agreement, and to saving clauses for those places where power has been obtained to exceed the penny rate. The Act does not extend beyond England and Wales, and may be cited as the "Public Libraries Act, 1892."

Altogether this is a most valuable piece of legislation, and one for which those who have the administration of it ought to feel grateful. It is a credit, not only to those more immediately concerned with its drafting and passage through both Houses of Parliament, but to the Library Association generally, and there will in future be one important measure to point to as the outcome of the existence of the Association.

J. H. Q.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

The Golden Legend of master William Caxton done anew.
Colophon (page 1286):

Here ends this new edition of William Caxton's Golden Legend in which there is no change from the original, except for correction of errors of the press, and some few other amendments thought necessary for the understanding of the text. It is edited by Frederick S. Ellis, and printed by me William Morris at the Kelmscott Press, Upper Mall, Hammersmith, in the County of Middlesex, and finished on the 12th day of September of the year 1892. Sold by Bernard Quaritch, 13, Piccadilly, London. Fol. pp. xii., 1286.

Mr. Morris's new edition of Caxton's *Golden Legend* deserves notice here not as an antiquarian reprint, but as marking a new epoch in the production of beautiful books in this country. Our admiration for some of the earlier issues from the Kelmscott Press has not been whole-hearted. We have done full justice to the beauty of Mr. Morris's new type, but in his small quarto books the decorative capitals appear to us too large, and the page suffers for want of an ampler margin. In these magnificent volumes the margin is sufficient and the capitals fall into their right proportion. The label titlepage still seems to us a mistake, a mere stereotyping of the fashion of one decade in the fifteenth century, neither so reasonable nor so handsome as a modern titlepage, with its plentitude of information, can easily be made to look. But for this slight remnant of pedantry the wonderful interlaced work of the second title, and the two most beautiful full page illustrations by Mr. Burne Jones, more than compensate. The book, as we have said, is so beautiful as to constitute a new epoch in the annals of English printing, and if the new editions of the *Recuyell of the Historics of Troye* and of *Chaucer*, which are promised from the Kelmscott Press, each in its own new type, rival this first great work, Mr. Morris's fame as a printer will be established on a firm basis. Our private sympathies go with him very largely in his choice of books to reprint, but the rich collectors, who alone can afford to buy these costly issues, will perhaps be inclined to think that no better reason underlies their selection than that Mr. Morris being England's second

good printer (this is hard, perhaps, on Baskerville) naturally goes back to the work of his one predecessor. It would, indeed, be easy to make out a better case than this for the *Golden Legend*, of which it was said "for lyke as golde passeth in valewe alle other metalles, so thys legende excedeth alle other bookes," but this, alas, hardly falls within the scope of a mere Record of Bibliography. We may note, however, that Mr. F. S. Ellis has made the few changes the plan of his edition permitted with great care and judgment, and that his brief bibliographical note is extremely interesting. As we turned over the leaves of this beautiful book our eyes fell on the phrase "for myes ben gon out of their caues" on the penultimate line of page 242. It is the history of Judith that is being written, and a little experience of fifteenth century English prompts us to offer the suggestion that "myes" is a misprint for "thenemyes," *i.e.*, the enemies. But whether the error originated with Caxton or Mr. Ellis we have not yet been able to ascertain. A further hunt, inspired by this one find, failed to reveal any other *corrigenda*, and we hope that the painstaking editor will not take this one blot too much to heart.

The Dialogue or Communing between the wise king Solomon and Marcolphus. Edited by E. Gordon Duff. *London: Lawrence and Bullen*, 1892. 8vo, pp. xxvi. [36.] 46. Only 350 copies printed. Price 10s. 6d.

Sex quam elegantissimæ epistolæ. Printed by William Caxton in 1483; reproduced in facsimile. With an introduction and translation by George Bullen, C.B., LL.D. *London: Lawrence and Bullen*, 1892. 8vo, pp. xiv. [46.] 36. Only 350 copies printed. Price 10s. 6d.

The interest of Incunabula, as such, is purely typographical, inasmuch that the student of early printing rages wildly against all cataloguers, who treat them as mere contributions to literature by entering them under the names of authors instead of printers. Now and again, however, it happens that the bibliographer relents from his sternness, and while engaged in the familiar occupation of counting the number of lines to a page or measuring the size of types, is attracted to read the book at which he is working, and recognizes with surprise that it still preserves its interest, nay more, is even amusing. Two thin quartos before us, the one Latin but printed in England, the other English but printed in Holland, bear witness to discoveries of this kind made by Dr. Bullen and Mr. Gordon Duff. The little Caxton, which Dr. Bullen reprints in facsimile and translates, is the unique copy of the English printer's edition of the correspondence between Pope Sixtus IV. and the Venetian Republic with reference to the Duchy of Ferrara. Pope and Republic had joined together in attacking the Duke, and had obtained sufficient success to make him very anxious to come to terms with one or both of his assailants. Sixtus IV. also was tired of the war and readily made peace on terms advantageous to himself. Having done this he promptly wrote to the Venetians to acquiesce in his arrangements, and the correspondence which ensued is preserved in its entirety only in Caxton's edition. Why he printed it remains a mystery. English people were hardly enough interested in the dispute to make the book a commercial success, and we are left to conjecture that some agents of the Venetians subsidized the publication as a means of vindicating their hardihood in withstanding the Papal interdict. Mr. Gordon Duff's reprint is concerned with less weighty matters, though the name of Solomon prepares us for an

outpouring of wisdom. The wisdom, however, is mainly proverbial, and the best of it comes not from the King, but from the misshapen fool against whom he matches his wit. The story, Mr. Duff tells us, is undoubtedly of eastern origin, and in its earliest form is a colloquy between inspired wisdom and demoniacal cunning. Traces of this exist in an Anglo-Saxon version still extant, but the legend gradually became Teutonized, losing almost all its eastern characteristics, and acquiring in their stead touches of broad humour and homely wit. "These great and radical changes," we are told,

"Seem to have been introduced about the twelfth century. Marcolphus no longer appears as a wise person able to cope with Solomon on the same level, and in a grave spirit; he is now 'Marcolf, the mere foole,' a gross rustic, dependent upon his mother wit, and content to parody Solomon's wise sayings. His mythical, superhuman character is gone, and he has changed without any gradation that we know of, from the very highest to the humblest position; he has changed from a deity to a Teutonic peasant of the coarsest description. The cause or purpose of this change is unknown; though reason may then have dictated it, reason certainly cannot now explain it."

In his fallen estate, Marcolphus bears no small resemblance to our old friend Eulenspiegel or Owlglass, and his jests are quite as broad and quite as good. This curious tract was printed for the English market by Gerard Leeu, at Antwerp, about 1492, in the same type as *The History of Jason*, *The History of Knight Paris and the Fair Vienne*, and *The Chronicles of England*. The only extant copy of this edition (a later one, by Pynson, is at Britwell) came into the Bodleian, as part of the bequest of Bishop Tanner, bound up with four other tracts, viz., Caxton's *Ars Moriendi* and *Gouernayle of Helthe*, and Wynkyn de Worde's *Three Kings of Coleyne* and *Meditations of St. Bernard*. Mr. Duff gives a full bibliographical description of the twenty-three Latin editions published during the fifteenth century, with notes on some later ones and of the translations into French, German, Dutch, and Italian. The photographic facsimile of Leeu's type by the Clarendon Press is excellent; and the same may be said of Mr. Hyatt's reproduction of Caxton's, for Dr. Bullen's edition. Both books deserve a welcome.

Books in Chains and other Bibliographical Papers. By the late William Blades. London: Elliot Stock, 1892. 8vo., pp. xxxviii., 232. Part of the Book-Lover's Library. Edited by H. B. Wheatley. Price 5s.

It is quite unnecessary for THE LIBRARY to do more than advertise to its readers the appearance of this reprint of Mr. Blades' well-known essays on *Books in Chains*, and the *Use and Development of Signatures in Books*, and his contributions to the controversy *De Ortu Typographia*. Mr. Wheatley has prefaced them with a pleasantly-written introduction, and all book-lovers who do not possess them already will welcome their reappearance in this convenient form. We regret, however, the absence of a few notes to correct such a slip as the assignment of Koelhoff's edition of Nider's *Expositio Decalogi* to Lubeck (the printer's birthplace), instead of Cologne, and to incorporate the additional information by which the essay on *Books in Chains* might have been made still more useful.

Monumenta Germaniæ et Italiæ Typographica. Deutsche und Italienische Inkunabeln in getrennen Nachbildungen herausgegeben von der Direction der Reichsdruckerei. Auswahl und Text von K. Burger. Erste Lieferung, Tafel 1-25. *Berlin, Reichsdruckerei*, 1892. fol. (In commission bei O. Harrassowitz, Leipzig.) To be completed in 12 parts, 20 marks for each part.

Every country save England will soon be in possession of a finely executed series of photographic facsimiles from its incunabula. Holtrop led the way in 1868 with his splendid *Monuments typographiques des Pays-Bas*, and M. Thierry-Poux little more than a year ago produced a charming volume of reproductions, *Les Premiers Monuments de l'Imprimerie en France*. The Imperial Press of Berlin, to which we already owe a fine but very haphazard series of facsimiles (*Druckschriften des 15. bis 18. Jahrhunderts*), has now undertaken to illustrate the history of printing, not only in Germany but in Italy as well—an immense undertaking to which the three hundred plates in which it is proposed to be completed will barely suffice. The first series of twenty-five plates is now before us, and in point of technical execution leaves nothing to be desired. The printers illustrated from Augsburg are, Günther Zainer, Bämle, Keller, and Erhard Ratdolt, the last-named by a magnificent *Schriftprobe* issued in 1486, containing specimens of eleven Gothic types, three Roman and one Greek. From Basle we have a fine folio page, in black and red, from the *Gratian*, printed by Michael Wenssler in 1481; from Beromünster a page, with the colophon, of the well-known *Mamotrectus*, printed by Helyas Helye de Louffen in 1470. A page from the *De Apparitionibus Animarum* of Jacobus de Clusa, printed by an unknown printer at Burgdorf in 1475, and another from the *Questiones super II. Aristotelis de Celo et Mundo* from the press of the mysterious Theodoricus (? Rood) of Cologne, 1485, will be of especial interest to students interested in the cruxes of early printing. Classical scholars will be delighted with the sheets devoted to facsimiles of pages from the earliest printed Greek books, while a specimen from the Florentine Dante, with one of the engravings by Sandro Botticelli, is thrown as a sop to lovers of prettiness. Plainly Herr Burger has cast his net wide at its first throw in order to catch every class of person interested in incunabula, and we cannot doubt that his fine reproductions will be appreciated.

The Library. By Andrew Lang. With a chapter on Modern English Illustrated Books by Austin Dobson. Second edition. (The final chapter enlarged and further illustrations added.) *London: Macmillan & Co.*, 1892. 8vo., pp. xxi., 192.

In his preface to this second edition Mr. Lang tells us that this little volume was written "ten years ago, when the author's knowledge of books, never exhaustive, was younger and scantier than it is to-day." His words remind us that there is a time—chess lovers will scorn us for saying so—when even chess is an amusing and not too fatiguing game, when the moves and one or two easy openings have been learnt, and science is as yet disregarded. At just such a happy moment in his study of book-lore must Mr. Lang's first edition have been written, and like many another book written by a clever man before the simplicity of his first view of a subject has been spoilt by doubts and details, the result, of its kind, is admirable. No more pleasant or chatty introduction to the study of old books has ever been put together, and the learning, if not very profound, is good and accurate as far as it goes. Above all the perspective is

always right. Mr. Lang neither apologizes for his hobby as a "mania" nor writes fatuously about it as a high mystery. He regards the love of books for their form as a pleasant outgrowth of the love of books for their matter, and well would it be if all other writers on book-lore would look at their subject from so sane a stand-point. In the present edition we note that Mr. Lang has not yet learnt that Van Praet's useful catalogue of books on vellum was duly published, also that his printer has done him what the said printer would call a "grevious" wrong, by making Mr. Huth's name appear as Mr. Hutts, and, worse still, by making an Homeric scholar like Mr. Lang translate *ἀσκηθής* by "unarmed" instead of "unharméd." In his new preface Mr. Lang says several good things. Here, for instance, is his advice to the young bookman :—

"Experience only, not study, can enlighten the collector. He must pay for his knowledge like other mortals. One piece of advice may be given to him. It is far wiser to buy seldom, and at a high price, than to run round the stalls collecting twopenny treasures. This counsel was not taken by him who gives it. When I collected books ('tis gone, 'tis gone,') I got together a wonderful heap of volumes, hopelessly imperfect. My *Lucasta*, by Richard Lovelace, Esq. (1649) lacks the frontispiece. My *Rochejoucauld* (1655) has a couple of pages in facsimile (I know not which they are), and so forth. These things, though useful in a literary sense, are twopenny treasures. As for the short Elzevirs, the late Aldines, the incomplete Angling curiosities, their name is legion. These are examples to avoid, and to be avoided is the habit of miscellaneously buying any volume which seems uncommon, except, of course, when it has a literary use."

Here again are some excellent remarks on the craze for large paper editions of the most incongruous books, and the present habit of some booksellers of subscribing for a work by a popular author and then withholding their copies till they can claim a higher price for them as "rare first editions."

"The taste for large paper copies of new books has greatly increased since *The Library* was written. It does not become an author to complain whose own modest gains are increased by this fashion. But it seems clear enough that the fashion, and that other fashion of buying the first editions of contemporaries, is exaggerated. It is not every book, by any means, that is the better for being printed on large paper. Often the smaller size is much more handy and appropriate. Why Mr. Stevenson's first editions should be four or five times as valuable as Sir Walter Scott's is a mystery which I am sure will puzzle and divert the modern author. I cannot think that the end will justify these proceedings. Moreover, an author is vexed when his first edition is 'quoted' at twenty times its original value, while his second edition languishes in obscurity. Booksellers injure a man when they charge a pound for his first edition, while there are hundreds of that very issue lying forlorn on his publishers' shelves! This is a grevious [*sic*] form of popularity, and arises from the ignorance of collectors. When they know a little more it will be better for all persons, except for some booksellers. Book-collecting ought not to be a mere trade or a mere fad. Its object is to secure the comforts of a home for examples really rare or beautiful or interesting as relics."

So Mr. Lang discourses in his pleasant new preface, ending with the sententious advice, "We should try to purchase the books which will disenchant us least." His own little monograph has stood this test for ten years, and we cannot think that many copies of its second edition will languish for long on Messrs. Macmillan's shelves. Assuredly *THE LIBRARY* as periodical wishes all good luck to *The Library* as book.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Public Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

AIRDRIE.—On September 3rd a letter was received by Mr. Jeffrey, hon. secretary of the Airdrie Public Library, from Mr. Carnegie, enclosing a cheque for £1,000 towards the funds of the new library. In his letter Mr. Carnegie writes as follows :—"Airdrie deserves such a boon as you are about to give her, for it is an honour, indeed, to have been the first town in the first of lands to adopt the Library Act. Success to Airdrie."

ASTON, BIRMINGHAM.—Mr. D. Barron Brightwell recently delivered a lecture entitled, "A Homely Talk about Books," in connection with the Aston Free Libraries.

BASLOW.—On 8th October, the Duchess of Rutland delivered an address in aid of the Reading Room and Library.

CANTERBURY.—The town clerk (Mr. Henry Fielding) on October 15th received a cablegram announcing that the Australian Court have decided in favour of the validity of the will of the late Dr. Beaney, of Melbourne, who bequeathed the sum of £10,000 to Canterbury (the city of his birth) for the provision of a Free Library and Institute.

CARDIFF.—On October 4th, one of the original movers in the Public Library question, Mr. Councillor Peter Price, died at the age of 68.

COLCHESTER.—An anonymous donor has sent £500 to the Public Library.

DUDLEY.—The Earl of Dudley has offered land, &c., for the erection of public buildings at Netherton and Woodside. At each place library rooms will be included in the buildings, and their cost will, by direction of the Earl of Dudley, be defrayed out of the profits of the Castle fêtes.

EDINBURGH.—Early in October, Mr. Hew Morrison delivered an address entitled, "Notes on the Books and the Readers."

EDINBURGH.—The celebrated library of the late Archbishop Smith, of Edinburgh, has just been despatched to Italy, it having been bequeathed by that prelate to the Scots College at Rome. The late Archbishop had collected one of the finest libraries of ecclesiastical literature in Great Britain, and the Roman Catholics of Scotland had hoped that it would have been bequeathed to some Church institution in their own country.

GLOUCESTER.—The question of adopting the Public Libraries Acts is being again considered.

HOVE.—On October 24th, the Free Lending Library was opened to the public.

HULL.—Mr. James Reckitt has offered to present to the town a library valued at £5,000 and an income of £300 per annum contingent upon the town adopting the Public Libraries Acts.

ILKESTON.—On 29th September it was decided to requisition the Mayor to take a vote of the town on the matter, at a public meeting held in the Town Hall, for the purpose of taking into consideration the advisability of adopting the Public Libraries Act in this borough.

IPSWICH.—On October 30th, at Packet Street Chapel, the Rev. W. Hubbard spoke in favour of the opening of Free Libraries and Museums on Sundays.

JARROW.—On October 8th Councillor Reavley gave an address on the Public Libraries Act, and urged its adoption in Jarrow.

KIDDERMINSTER.—On October 10th Alderman M. Tomkinson laid the foundation stone of the new Public Library buildings.

LEEDS.—The room set apart for the Headingley Branch of the Leeds Public Library in the new divisional police station was opened on September 29th by the Mayor (Alderman Boothroyd).

LIVERPOOL.—At the conference of the "Catholic Truth Society," held in October, Canon Franklin, of Newcastle, submitted a paper on "Free Libraries."

LONDON: BETHNAL GREEN.—A donation of 1,100 vols. from a private library has been added to the Free Library.

LONDON: CLERKENWELL.—The Clerkenwell Public Library Commissioners have arranged for a series of picture exhibitions in their reading room. These consist of paintings in oil and water colours and sketches in black and white by the three sons of the late Mr. Robert Paget, the former vestry clerk of Clerkenwell—Messrs. H. M., Walter and Sidney Paget. There is also a collection of original drawings in illustration of the history of England. The libraries are to be open at 8 a.m.

LONDON: PADDINGTON.—The secretary of the Paddington Free Library states that, owing to want of funds, that institution will have to close its doors at the expiration of the tenancy.

LONDON: POPLAR.—The Public Library Commissioners have secured St. Stephen's Hall, adjoining St. Stephen's Church, East India Road, as a reading-room, which, it is expected, will be opened early in December.

LONDON: ST. GILES.—The Commissioners of Public Libraries and Museums for the district of St. Giles have concluded arrangements with the Duke of Bedford for taking No. 110, Southampton Row, as a temporary library pending the erection of permanent premises in High Holborn.

LONDON: ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.—The Library Commissioners have decided on accepting the design of Mr. John Johnson for the new Public Library.

LONDON: WANDSWORTH.—On October 21st, at the South Western Police Court, a woman was sentenced to twenty-one days for stealing a book from the Wandsworth Public Library.

LONDON: WHITECHAPEL.—Lord Rosebery on October 25th opened the Whitechapel Free Library and Museum.

PETERBOROUGH.—On September 29th the temporary Library was opened by the Mayor. Mr. Iastrzebski, for some time assistant librarian at Halifax, has been appointed librarian out of between fifty and sixty applicants.

PETERHEAD.—A fancy bazaar was held in the Free Library Buildings, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, on September 28th, in aid of the fund for keeping up the library. The bazaar was opened by the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen. It realised about £700. Mr. Andrew Carnegie has forwarded to the Peterhead Free Library Committee, through Provost Smith, a letter, in which he says he looks upon Peterhead as a brave little town, and is proud of being able to assist it. Mrs. Carnegie and he would never forget the magnificent reception they got on the occasion of laying the memorial stone of the Free Library Buildings. He enclosed a blank cheque, which is to be filled up for such an amount as will leave the buildings free of debt. Mr. Carnegie has already given £1,000 to the funds.

SALE.—On October 27th the Free Library Committee resolved that the library be opened on Sunday afternoon and evening.

SALFORD.—At the end of September a poll was taken, with the result that 4,668 voted in favour of adopting the Public Libraries Act, 1892, and 4,274 voted against, whilst 15,537 papers were invalid. The following letter was issued :—

“SIR,—The Public Libraries Act, 1892, under which this poll is being taken, was passed to consolidate the existing law relating to Public Libraries, and does not confer any power to increase the library rate. Doubts having recently been raised as to whether the powers conferred by the Libraries Acts are properly exercisable by the Council of Salford, it has been thought desirable to take advantage of the recent Act to set at rest all such doubts and put the library authority in possession of all powers which may be exercisable by authorities adopting the new Act. No change of policy or management is contemplated, the only desire of the Libraries Committee being to make the institution as useful as possible, and it is to be regretted that an explanation did not accompany the voting papers.

“Yours, &c.,

“ISAAC BOWES,

“Chairman of the Museum and
Libraries Committee.

“*Peal Park, Salford, 29th September, 1892.*”

SOUTHAMPTON.—On August 31st the Mayor of Southampton (Mr. J. Lemon), laid the foundation of the new Public Library.

SUNDERLAND.—It has been decided to open the Museum and Art Gallery, as well as the Free Library at Sunderland, on Sunday afternoons and evenings, commencing with the first Sunday in November.

TOTTENHAM.—The Committee hope shortly to make a start by opening a Reading Room at Eaton House.

WATFORD.—On October 25th, Mrs. J. W. Robins opened the Reference Library. It was chiefly owing to the munificence of her late husband that the greater part of the Library had been collected.

WENSLEY.—On September 17th, took place the laying of the memorial stone of a new Reading Room and Library. It is to be the free gift of Mr. Joseph Taylor, Moss Side, Manchester, to his native village. The estimated cost is £600. The stone was laid by Mrs. T. E. Roberts, of Fallowfield, daughter of Mr. Taylor. The plans were prepared by Messrs. Booth and Chadwick, of Manchester. The contractors are

Messrs. Booth and Wildgoose. The building is to contain two reading rooms, one for boys, another for men; also a library. The entire length is 54ft. by 15ft.

WICK.—At a meeting on June 27th, of the Free Library Committee, a letter was read from Mr. Andrew Carnegie offering to contribute £1,250 for the proposed new Library Buildings, on condition that an equal sum is raised by the committee. The committee agreed to accept Mr. Carnegie's offer.

FOREIGN.

FLORENCE.—A splendid new Public Library is being built at Florence, the collection having completely overflowed its old quarters. Room for 2,000,000 volumes is being prepared, a copy of every work issued in Italy being placed in the Library. Special Galileo and Dante chambers are devoted to works and relics of the great Florentines, whose statues, with those of Machiavelli and Michael Angelo, will ornament the exterior of the building.



Editorial.

QUI s'excuse s'accuse, and, therefore, instead of boring my long-suffering readers with a long story about the manifold hindrances that have, for the last six months, stopped the publication of *The Library*, I will only say that they are now overcome; and that, from henceforth, I trust there will be no more delays, and that I shall soon regain my old character for punctuality.

I have now entered into an agreement with Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall and Co., who will henceforward be answerable for the business management of the magazine.

The numbers for January, February, March, and April, 1893, are now in print, and will be issued at once; and a Title-page and Index for Volume 4 will be included in the January number.

Subscribers who do not want to go on with Volume 5 (I hope there won't be any!) will receive the Title and Index separately on sending 3d. in stamps.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

ALL the world knows long ago that this was held in Paris in September last, and that it was in several respects the most brilliantly successful of all its meetings—and probably more far-reaching in its results than any other. But for the temporary stoppage of *The Library*, a full Report of the Meeting would have been published long ere this; and now, for many reasons, it seems desirable that the Report of that Meeting should be a separate publication. It is nearly ready; and, I trust, will be in the hands of the Members very shortly. It will be sent to Members free; and Subscribers to *The Library* will be able to purchase it at a nominal price.

THE EDITOR.



Library Association of the United Kingdom,

20, HANOVER SQUARE, W.

A MEMORANDUM.

THE Library Association of the United Kingdom was founded on October 5th, 1877, at the conclusion of the International Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of the late Mr. J. Winter Jones, then Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its objects are (a) to encourage and aid the establishment of new libraries; (b) to endeavour to secure better legislation for free public libraries; (c) to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, for the purpose of promoting the best possible administration of libraries; and (d) to encourage bibliographical research.

The Association has, by the invitation of the local authorities, held its Annual Meetings in the following towns:—Oxford, 1878; Manchester, 1879; Edinburgh, 1880; London, 1881; Cambridge, 1882; Liverpool, 1883; Dublin, 1884; Plymouth, 1885; London, 1886; Birmingham, 1887; Glasgow, 1888; London, 1889; Reading, 1890; Nottingham, 1891; Paris, 1892.

The official organ of the Association is *The Library*, which is sent post free to members. In its pages appear the papers read at Annual and Monthly Meetings, and a report of the Proceedings of the Association.

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month from October to June, and are announced in *The Library*.

The Annual Subscription is One Guinea, payable in advance, on January 1st. The Life Subscription is Fifteen Guineas. *Any person actually engaged in Library administration may become a member, without election, on payment of the Subscription to the Treasurer* (Mr. H. R. Tedder, Athenæum, Pall Mall, S.W.). Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants, approved by the Council, are admitted on payment of a Subscription of Half-a-Guinea.

The Association has instituted an Examination for Library Assistants, Librarians, and others, and issues certificates to those who satisfy the examiners. (See *Year Book*, 1892, pp. 13-20.)

The Association has published a large number of interesting and important papers on all branches of library work. A complete list of these will be found in the *Year Book*.

The Hon. Secretary will be glad to receive papers on appropriate subjects for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.

The Library Association Year Book, 1892* (post free 1s.), contains full information on every department of the Association's work, and includes the L.A.U.K. Cataloguing Rules, Syllabuses of Examinations with specimen papers of questions, List of Members with their addresses, &c., &c.

It can be obtained from the publishers, Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall & Co., 4, Stationers' Hall Court, E.C., or through any bookseller.

* Now out of print. A new edition will be ready very shortly.

INDEX.

- ABERDEEN** Public Library, 25
 Bust of Prof. Bain proposed, 25
 Notice to Borrowers inserted in Volumes, 116
 Technical Instruction, 266
Africa, see Kimberley Library
Airdrie Public Library: Gift from Andrew Carnegie, 351
Alloa Public Library: Report, 129
Altrincham:
 The Literary Institution transferred to the Local Board for a Public Library, 25
 Technical Instruction Act adopted, 25
 New Library opened (Oct. 1, '92), 266
American Library Work:
 Bulletin No. 1 of the New York State Library School, 133
 Salem Public Library: Third Supplement to the Finding List, 164
 Los Angeles Public Library (Letter), 103
 The Industrial Library at the Pacific Mills, Lawrence, Mass., J. Samuelson on, 188
 Pittsburg Public Library: Donations from Andrew Carnegie, 191
 Colby University Library, 192
 Chicago Public Library: Report 194
 Pratt Institute, Brooklyn: Catalogue, 272
 "Arcadia," reproduced in Photographic Facsimile and edited by Dr. H. O. Sommer, 264
Archiv, German Weekly Journal of Bibliography, 122
Arlecdon and **Frizington** Public Library opened (May 30, '92), 157
 "Arnold, Matthew, Bibliography of," by T. B. Smart, 258
 "Ars Moriendi" (Book printed about 1491), reproduced by Photography, 98
Art Exhibition at Clerkenwell Library, 352
Asia, see Tiflis, Japan, India
Aston Manor Public Library: Lectures, 266, 351
Auckland Public Library: The "Sir George Grey" Collection, 98, 191
Australia, see Sydney
Axon, W. E. A.,
 On a Bibliographical Society, 2
 On the Library Movement, 167
 On Espinosa's "Flores," 201
Ayr:
 The Public Library to be handed over to the Carnegie Library, 266
 The Carnegie Library: Mr. Phillips appointed Librarian, 127
BAGGULEY, W. H., appointed Sub-Librarian at West Ham, 129
 Baillie's Institution, see under Glasgow
Banchory Public Library taken over by the John Watson Guild, 96
Baroda (India) Public Library opened, 270
Barry and **Cadoxton** Public Library: E. F. Blackmore appointed Librarian, 266
Baslow Library: Address by the Duchess of Rutland, 351
Beaconsfield, New Zealand: Village Library, 191
Beaton, John, appointed Librarian at Inverurie, 159
Belfast:
 The Public Library:
 J. B. Goldsbrough appointed Sub-Librarian, 25
 Report, 129
 The Belfast Library: G. J. Smith appointed Librarian, 25
 The Linen Hall Library removed to New Premises in Donegall Square North, 96
 Béraldi's (Henri) "Estampes et Livres, 1872-1892," 123
Bermondsey Public Library:
 Opened by Sir John Lubbock (Jan. 18, '92), 57, 339
 Catalogues, 103, 132
 Sunday Opening, 128
Bethnal Green:
 Acts rejected (1890), 144
 Gift of Books, 352
Betting News: "Blacking Out" Question at Leicester, 57; Birmingham, 127; West Bromwich, 132
Bibles:
 "Incunabula Biblica, 1450-1500," by W. A. Copinger, 154
 Copy of the Bassandynne Bible, acquired by the Edinburgh Public Library, 190
 The Geneva Folio Bible, 1616 (Two Letters), 272
Bibliographical Society:
 On the Necessity for the Formation of a Bibliographical Society of the United Kingdom, by W. A. Copinger, 1, 230
 Preliminary Meeting, 230
 Programme for 1892-3, 295

- Monthly Meeting : W. A. Copinger's Inaugural Address, 296
- Bibliographies, Special,
Henri Bouchot's "Les Livres à Vignettes du XVe au XVIIIe Siècle," and "Les Livres à Vignettes du XIXe Siècle," 99
- Duc de Rivoli's "Bibliographie des Livres à Figures Vénitiens, 1469-1525," 153
- W. A. Copinger's "Incunabula Biblica, 1450-1500," 154
- T. B. Smart's "Bibliography of Matthew Arnold," 258
- Miss T. S. Prideaux's Bibliography of Bookbinding, 15, 51, 90
- "The Bibliography of Bookbinding and Binding Patents," 228
- "Bibliography of Book Plates," by W. H. Fincham and J. R. Brown, 262
- "Bibliotheca Accipitraria," by J. E. Harting, 259
- Bibliography :
Bohn's "Quarterly Bibliography," 68
- W. T. Rogers's "Manual of Bibliography," 99
- Das Archiv*, German Weekly Journal, 122
- Bibliothèque Nationale, see under France
- Bingley Public Library opened (April 2, '92), 127
- "Biography, National, Dictionary of," 238
- Birkenhead Public Library :
Report, 60
- Hand List, No. 6, 163
- Birmingham :
The Public Library :
Open shelves, 57
- The "Thomas Hall" Collection, 25
- The Question of "Blacking Out," 127
- Branch Library in Saltley Road, opened (June 5, 1892), 267, 339
- Mason College Library : "Hensleigh Wedgwood" Collection, 72
- Blackmore, E. F., appointed Librarian at Barry and Cadoxton, 266
- Blackpool Public Library : Report, 61
- Blades, William,—
"Pentateuch of Printing, with a Chapter on Judges," 29
- "Bibliographical Miscellanies," Note on, by W. A. Copinger, 152
- "Books in Chains, and other Bibliographical Papers," edited by H. B. Wheatley, 348
- Blenheim, New Zealand : Library reopened, 191
- Bloomsbury (St. Giles's) :
Acts adopted (1891), 142
- Temporary Library in Southampton Row, 352
- Bodleian Library :
Report, 160
- Photolithographs of Two Rare Books, 98
- "Historic Bindings," described by W. Salt Brasington, 123
- Bohn's "Quarterly Bibliography," 68
- Bolton Public Library :
Report, 61
- Branch at Mere Hill opened, 61
- Application for powers to borrow £1,000 for a New Library made by the Corporation, 96
- Bookbinding :
Miss S. T. Prideaux's "Bibliography of Bookbinding," 15, 51, 90
- The Bibliography of Bookbinding and Binding Patents, 228
- Gustave Brunet's "Etudes sur la Reliure des Livres," 68
- "Burlington Fine Arts Club Exhibition of Bookbindings, Catalogue," 123
- "Historic Bindings in the Bodleian Library," by W. S. Brasington, 123
- Ledieu's "Reliures Artistiques et Armoriées de la Bibliothèque Communale d'Abbeville," 123
- Béraldi's "Estampes et Livres, 1872-1892," 123
- "Four Private Libraries of New York," by H. Pène Du Bois, 123
- Book-Collecting :
"Book-Collecting : a Guide for Amateurs," by H. Slater, 263
- "The Library," by Andrew Lang, 349
- Book-Collectors :
Quaritch's "Dictionary of English Collectors," 199
- "The Libraries of Archbishop Cranmer and Bilibald Pirckheimer," 199
- "Book-Plates, Bibliography of," by W. H. Fincham and J. R. Brown, 262
- Book Trade :
Booksellers' Discount to Public Libraries : Paper by David Stott, and Discussion, 195
- Remainders, Jos. Gilburt on, 324
- Books in Chains :
Note on, 184
- Blades's "Books in Chains," 348
- Books, Librarian-made, J. Gilburt on, 8
- Bootle Public Library :
Report, 157
- Lectures at the Technical School, 267
- Borrajó, Edw. M., on the General Election and the Library Question (Letter), 102
- Bouchot's (Henri) "Les Livres à Vignettes du XVe au XVIIIe Siècle," and "Les Livres à Vignettes du XIXe Siècle," 99

- Bradford (Yorks.) Public Library :
 The Library of the Teachers' Guild
 housed in the Reference Room, 26
 Report, 61
 Directories placed on Open Shelves, 61
 Brassey Institute, see under Hastings
 Brassington's (W. Salt) "Historic Bind-
 ings in the Bodleian Library," 123
 Brechin Public Library, 96, 153
 Opened, 339
 Brentford Public Library : Lectures, 57
 Bridle, Wm., appointed Librarian at
 Penge, 128
 Brierley Hill Public Library : Report,
 129
 Brighton Public Library, 57
 Bristol Public Library : Lectures, 57
 British Library, Cockspur-street : Cata-
 logue, 271
 British Museum :
 Retirement of Dr. Charles Rieu, Keeper
 of Oriental Manuscripts, 27
 "A Subject Index of the Modern
 Works added to the Library, 1885-
 1890," by G. K. Fortescue, 155
 "Catalogue of Printed Books," new
 Instalment, 164
 Bromley-by-Bow : Acts adopted (1891),
 142
 Bromley (Kent) and a Public Library, 27
 Acts adopted, 190
 Brooklyn : Pratt Institute, Catalogue, 272
 Brown, James D.,
 On Comparative Library Statistics
 (Letter), 102
 On Booksellers' Discount, 197
 On a List of British Libraries, 274
 Brown (James Roberts) and W. H.
 Finchan's "Bibliography of Book
 Plates," 262
 Brunet's (Gustave) "Etudes sur la Reliure
 des Livres," 68
 Bullen's (George) Introduction to and
 Translation of "Sex quam elegan-
 tissimæ epistolæ," 347
 Burger's (Conradi) Index to Hain's
 "Repertorium," 263
 Burgoyne, F. J., on Booksellers' Dis-
 count, 197
 Burns Chronicle : a Correction, 101
 Burt, A. G., appointed Chief Assistant
 at Fulham Library, 190
 Buxton Public Library : Report, 61
 CADE, R., on the Various Manuscripts of
 Carlyle's "Lectures on Literature," 225
 California : Los Angeles Public Library,
 103
 Camberwell Public Libraries :
 Livesey Library : Lecture, 59
 Minet Library : Report, 63
 New Central Library to be erected, 159
 Cambridge Public Library :
 Report, 61
 Open Shelves, 61
 Thefts from the Libraries, 190
 Cambridge University :
 Report of the Library Syndicate, 194
 "The Library of Trinity College," by
 Dr. R. Sinkler, 100
 Campbell, F. B. F., on Annual Lists of
 State Papers, 175
 Canterbury Manuscripts and Records,
 Pamphlet on, by H. R. Plomer, 157
 Canterbury Public Library :
 J. R. Plomer on, 331
 Dr. Beane's Bequest, 351
 Cardiff Public Library :
 Its Liability to Pay Income Tax, 26
 Report, 61
 Technical Education, 61
 North Branch Reading-Room opened
 (July 29, 1891), 62
 Canton and Riverside Branch opened
 (Sept. 14, 1891), 62
 Surplus Newspapers, &c., to go to
 Lighthouses and Lightships, 97
 Carlisle Public Library, D. Watson on,
 185
 Carlton (Notts) Public Library : John
 Hopkinson appointed Librarian, 267
 Carlyle's "Lectures on Literature" :
 Note respecting the Various Manu-
 scripts, by R. Cade, 225
 Carnarvon Public Library, 26
 Carnegie, Andrew,
 On Reading, 167
 His Gifts to Jedburgh, 128, 190 ;
 Marylebone, 159 ; Pittsburg, 191 ;
 Aberdeen, 266 ; Airdrie, 351 ; Peter-
 head, 353 ; Wick, 354
 Carterton (New Zealand) Library : Re-
 port, 191
 Castlehay Public Library opened (Jan.
 30, 1892), 97
 Catalogues of Libraries, &c. :
 "Subject Index of the Modern Works
 added to the Library of the British
 Museum, 1885-1890," by G. K.
 Fortescue, 155
 "The British Museum Catalogue of
 Printed Books," New Instalment,
 164
 Printed Books in the Library of the
 Incorporated Law Society, 272
 British Library, Cockspur-street, 271
 "Reference Catalogue to Books on
 Mines and Mining, &c.," by H. E.
 Haferkorn, 155
 Bermondsey : Catalogues of Books in
 the Lending and Reference Depart-
 ments and in the Juvenile Lending
 Departments, 103, 132
 Birkenhead : Hand List, No. 6, 163

- Liverpool : Selected Technical Literature in the Reference Library and Branch Lending Libraries, 103
- St. Helens : Catalogue of the Sutton Branch Lending Library, 163
- Wigan : Books on Freemasonry, 272
- Wimbledon, 271
- The National Library of France, 281
- Salem (Mass.) Public Library : Third Supplement to the Finding List, 164
- Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, 272
- Kimberley Public Library, 164
- Cataloguing and Classification of Books (see also under Bibliography) :
- Catalogue Criticism, 132
- Bad Catalogues, 165
- Cutter's "Rules for a Dictionary Catalogue," 163
- On the Classification of a Typographical Library, by T. B. Reed, 33
- Catherine of Aragon : The True Catherine of Aragon, according to Italian Archives, by H. Vivian, 169
- Caxton, William,
- Reprint of His Edition of the "Golden Legend," by the Kelmescott Press, 346
- Reproduction in Facsimile of His Edition of the "Sex quam elegantissimæ epistole," with Introduction and Translation by George Bullen, 347
- Chained Books : a Note, 184
- Blades's "Books in Chains," 348
- Chelsea Public Library, 28, 59
- Opened (Jan., 1891), 145
- Meeting of the Library Association held at Chelsea, 31
- J. H. Quinn on Library Work in Chelsea, 31
- Boys' Rooms at Chelsea and Kensal Town, opened, 268
- Cheltenham Public Library : Report, 129
- Chetham's Library, see under Manchester
- Chicago Exhibition :
- A Summons to Chicago, 274
- Invitation to Women Librarians, 273
- Chicago Public Library : Report, 194
- "Children in the Library" (Poem), by A. J. Edmunds, 216
- Children's Libraries, see under Juvenile
- Chivers, C., on Booksellers' Discount, 198
- Clerkenwell Public Library :
- Opened (Oct. 10, 1890), 145
- Exhibition of Pictures, 352
- Clitheroe Public Library : Report, 129
- Colby University (Waterville, Maine) Library, 192
- Colchester :
- Acts adopted, 25
- Mile End Branch opened, 158
- Gift to, 351
- Collectors, see under Book Collectors
- Collyer, Rev. Dr. Robert,
- Opened Otley Library, 256
- On Books, 256
- Constitutional Club Library : Report, 193
- Copinger, W. A.,
- On a Bibliographical Society of the United Kingdom, 1, 230
- His Inaugural Address to the Bibliographical Society, 296
- On Blades's "Bibliographical Miscellanies," 152
- His "Incunabula Biblica, 1450-1500," 154
- Cork Public Library : Halfpenny Rate adopted, 158
- Cranmer, Archbishop, Library of, 199
- Cropper, Percy, on the Library of the Nottingham Mechanics' Institute, 45
- Croydon : Foundation Stone of Municipal Buildings laid, 267
- Cutter, Charles A.,
- His "Rules for a Dictionary Catalogue," 163
- Copies of his "Cataloguing Rules" for Distribution, 133, 339
- DARG, Mr., Librarian at Inverurie, resigned, 159
- Darlington Public Library : Sunday Opening of the Reading-rooms, 97
- Deptford :
- St. Paul's : Act rejected (Nov., 1890), 143
- Annual Meeting of the Library and Club in connection with the Works of Messrs. Braby & Co., 159
- Derby Public Library : Report, 130
- Dewsbury Public Library :
- Report, 62
- Lending Library opened (May 1, 1890), 62
- "Dialogue or Communing between the wise King Solomon and Marcolphus," Reprint in Facsimile of Leeu's Edition, 347
- "Dictionary of National Biography," 23S
- Doesborgh, Jan van, R. G. C. Proctor on, 208
- Donations to the L.A.U.K., 133, 339
- Doncaster Public Library : Report, 130
- Doubleday, W. E., on a Year's Development of the Public Library Movement in Greater London, 141
- Drama : W. Carew Hazlitt's "Manual for the Collector and Amateur of Old English Plays," 260
- Dublin : The New National Library in Kildare-street, 26
- Du Bois's (Henri Pène) "Four Private Libraries of New York," 123

- Dudley: The Earl of Dudley's Gifts to Netherton and Woodside, 351
 Duff's (E. Gordon) Edition of "The Dialogue or Communion between the wise King Solomon and Marcolphus," 347
 Dundee: Libraries in the Board Schools proposed, 158
 Dunedin, New Zealand: New Reading-Room opened, 191
 Durie, John, and his "Reformed Librarian Keeper," 81
 Dust in Libraries, 199
- EASTBOURNE:
 Scheme for a New Library and Technical Institute, 127
 Technical Instruction, 127
- Edinburgh:
 The Public Library:
 The Library and its First Year's Work, by Hew Morrison, 166
 Lecture on the Books and the Readers, 351
 Should Students residing outside Edinburgh enjoy all the Privileges of the Library? 27
 Portrait of Andrew Carnegie presented, 158
 Copy of the Bassandynne Bible acquired, 190
 The S.S.C. Society's New Library and Council Hall, 97; opened, 158
 Edmonton: Acts adopted, 27
 Edmunds, A. J., Poem by—"Children in the Library," 216
 Edwards, J. Passmore,
 Opened Stoke Newington Library, 255
 On Public Libraries, 255
 Elgin Public Library:
 Opened (May 13, 1892), 158
 Miss Mitchell appointed Librarian, 158
 Ellis's (Fred. S.) Edition of William Caxton's "Golden Legend," 346
 Enfield: Acts adopted, 158
 English Romance in French Translation, 1780-1830, J. Macfarlane on, 205
 Espinosa's "Flores," W. E. A. Axon on, 201
 Examinations of Candidates for Librarianships, 32, 339
 Exeter:
 Public Library: Report, 130
 Albert Memorial Museum: Mr. Kent-Kingdom's Bequest, 158
- FALCONRY: J. E. Harting's "Bibliotheca Accipitraria," 259
 Festiniog and a Public Library, 27
- Fiction:
 "A Descriptive List of Novels dealing with American City Life," by W. M. Griswold, 100
 "A Descriptive List of International Novels," by W. M. Griswold, 100
 The Chronology of the Waverley Novels, by John Foster, 117
 English Romance in French Translation, 1780-1830, J. Macfarlane on, 205
 Finance of the L.A.U.K., 339, 341
 Fincham, H. W., on Booksellers' Discount, 197
 Fincham (W. H.) and J. R. Brown's "Bibliography of Book-Plates," 262
 Fines for the Damage of Books:
 A. W. Robertson on, 115
 Readers fined at Sheffield, 28; and at Hanley, 62
 Finsbury Park and a Volunteer Public Library, 59
 Florence: New Library, 354.
 "Flores" of Espinosa, W. E. A. Axon on, 201
 Folkestone Public Library: Report, 130
 Forney Library, Paris, 247
 Fortescue's (G. K.) "Subject Index of the Modern Works added to the Library of the British Museum, 1885-1890," 155
 Foskett, E., on Booksellers' Discount, 199
 Foster, John, on the Chronology of the Waverley Novels, 117
- France:
 Paris Municipal Libraries:
 Report, translated by A. Clarke, 243
 Books lent by the Municipal Libraries, 166
 Forney Library, Paris, 247
 The National Library of France, J. Havet on, 277
 Freeman's (the late Prof. E. A.) Library presented to Owens College by the Legatees of the late Sir Joseph Whitworth, 269
 French Translation of English Romance, 1780-1830, J. Macfarlane on, 205
 Froude's (J. A.) "Divorce of Catherine of Aragon as told by the Imperial Ambassadors at the Court of Henry VIII.," Herbert Vivian on, 169
 Fulham Public Library:
 Lectures, 28, 190, 268
 Report, 63
 Guide to the Lending and Reference Departments, 190
 A. G. Burt appointed Chief Assistant Librarian, 190
- GAINSBOROUGH: Acts rejected, 27
 Geneva Bibliothèque Publique: Report, 195
 Geneva Folio Bible, 1616 (Two Letters), 272
 Gilbert, Joseph,
 On Some Librarian-made Books and Titles, 8

- On Remainders, 324
 Gill, Robinson, Donor of the Otley Public Library, 256
 Glasgow :
 The Mitchell Library : First Five Millions of Volumes issued, 161
 Baillie's Institution : W. Simpson appointed Librarian, 27
 The Athenæum : Report, 64
 Gloucester and a Public Library, 27, 351
 Godfrey, Mr., Librarian at Carlton, Notts., resigned, 267
 "Golden Legend" of William Caxton, reprinted at the Kelmscott Press, 346
 Goldsbrough, J. B., appointed Sub-Librarian at the Belfast Public Library, 24
 Gorton, see under Manchester
 Gravesend : Acts adopted, 267
 Greenwich : Acts rejected, 143
 Griswold's (W. M.) "Descriptive List of Novels dealing with American City Life" and "Descriptive List of International Novels," 100
 Grey, Sir George, and the "Grey" Collection at the Auckland Public Library, 98, 191
 HACKNEY : Acts rejected, 144
 Haferkorn's (H. E.) "Handy List of Books on Mines and Mining, &c.," 155
 Hailey, F. G., appointed Assistant at the Gladstone Library, National Liberal Club, 268
 Hain's (Ludovic) "Repertorium Bibliographicum," with Index by C. Burger, 263
 Halifax Public Library : Comparative Statistics : (A Correction and a Warning), 101, 102, 132
 Hall, Thomas, of King's Norton, and his Collection of Books at the Birmingham Public Library, 25
 Hammersmith Public Library : Report, 63
 Handsworth : Library opened, 339
 Hanley Public Library :
 Report, 62
 Fines for Mutilation of Books, 62
 Hardy, Mr., appointed Librarian at the Portico Library, Manchester, 28
 Harrogate Public Library : Report, 130
 Harting's (James Edmund) "Bibliotheca Accipitraria," 259
 Hastings : Brassey Institute, Report, 64
 Havet, Julien, on the National Library of France, 277
 Hazlitt's (W. Carew) "Manual for the Collector and Amateur of Old English Plays," 260
 Hereford Public Library : Report, 130
 Hindley Public Library : Report, 130
 Historical Tripos : Syllabus of Reading for the Members of St. John's College, Cambridge, 99
 Holborn (St. Andrew's) :
 Acts adopted (1891), 142
 Opened, 339
 Holborn, Robert Major, Death of, 119, 334
 Holme-Kay, Edward Ayton, Death of, 334
 Hopkinson, John, appointed Librarian at Carlton, Notts., 267
 Horsham and a Public Library, 158, 267
 Hove : Library opened (Oct. 24, 1892), 351
 Hull and a Public Library: James Reckitt's Offer, 351
 Humours of Libraries, &c., 123, 166
 ILKESTON and a Public Library, 267, 352
 "Illuminated Manuscripts in Classical and Medieval Times," by Prof. J. H. Middleton, 261
 Illustrating of Books : D. M. Tredwell's "Monograph on Privately Illustrated Books," 126
 Income Tax : Liability of Free Libraries, 26, 240
 Incorporated Law Society : Library Catalogue, 272
 "Incunabula Biblica, 1450-1500," by W. A. Copinger, 154
 India : Baroda Public Library opened, 270
 Industrial Libraries, see under Technical Education
 Inverurie Public Library : John Beaton appointed Librarian, 159
 Ipswich Public Library : Report, 130
 Ireland, Alexander,
 Opened the Longsight Library, 252
 On the Moral Influence of Public Libraries, 252
 Iron Presses, Suspended, James Lymburn on, 199, 241
 Islington : Acts rejected (June, 1891), 144
 Italy :
 New Library at Florence, 354
 Archbishop Smith's Library at the Scots College, Rome, 351
 JAMES, HUGH, on Size Notation, 71
 James, Miss M. S. R.,
 On Women Librarians, 217
 On Technical Instruction for Library Students and Assistants, 313
 Japan : Tokyo Library, Report, 195
 Jarrow and a Public Library, 352
 Jastrzebski, Mr., appointed Librarian at Peterborough, 352
 Jedburgh and a Public Library, 97

- Andrew Carnegie's Gift, 128
 Acts adopted, 190
 Juvenile Departments :
 Butler Wood on, 111
 Children's Library opened at Loughborough, 190
- KELMSCOTT Press Reprint of William Caxton's "Golden Legend," 346
 Kensal Town, see under Chelsea
 Kensington Public Library :
 North Kensington Branch opened (October 29, 1891), 63, 339
 Report, 63
 Thief sent to Prison, 128
 Kent and the Free Library Movement (see also under Bromley), J. R. Plomer on, 329
 Kidderminster Public Library :
 Report, 130
 Foundation Stone of New Buildings laid, 352
 Kilburn Public Library : Design for Building selected, 268
 Kimberley (S. Africa) Public Library :
 Catalogue, 164
 Report, 194
 Kimberworth, see under Rotherham
- LAMBETH :
 The Public Library: Penny Rate adopted, 145
 The Minet Library : Report, 63
 Lang's (Andrew) "The Library" (Second Edition), 349
 Leamington Spa Public Library : Report, 62
 Ledieu's (Alcuin) "Reliures Artistiques et Armories de la Bibliothèque Communale d'Abbeville," 123
 Leeds Public Library :
 Report, 62
 Donations of Books, 62
 Library opened at Headingley Police Station (Sept. 29, 1892), 352
 Leek (Nicholson Institute) :
 Report, 63, 130
 Sunday Opening tried, 130
 Book Club and Subscription Department, 191
 Lehrs's (Dr. Max) "Playing Cards of the Master E. S. of 1466," 260
 Leicester Public Library : Sporting News erased, 57
 Leigh :
 Acts adopted, 268
 Foundation Stone of Library and Technical School laid, 268
 Lewes and a Public Library, 27
 Lewisham :
 Poll on the Penny Rate, 128
 Library opened, 339
- Leyton : Acts adopted, 27
 Librarians :
 Examinations and Certificates, 32, 339
 A Plan for Providing Technical Instruction for Library Students and Assistants, by Miss M. S. R. James, 313
 Plea for a Summer School of Library Science, by J. J. Ogle, 319
 Women Librarians, by Miss M. S. R. James, 217
 Training in Practical Librarianship at the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, 272
 "A Librarian," by his Assistant, 233
 Librarians' Salaries, Thomas Mason on, 167
 Libraries (see also under Public Libraries):
 A List of British Libraries to be compiled by J. D. Brown, 274
 Libraries of Ancient Rome, 261
 Libraries not under the Public Libraries
 Acts, see British Museum, Bodleian, National Liberal Club, Constitutional Club, Incorporated Law Society, People's Palace, Patent Office, &c.
 Library, Publication of, 31, 337, 355
 "Library," by Andrew Lang, 349
 Library Appliances, Library Work :
 Museum of Library Appliances, 31, 335
 Suspended Iron Presses, James Lymburn on, 199, 241
 Tickets : Legality of Charging for them, 133
 Open Shelves, Butler Wood on, 105
 Open Shelves at Birmingham, 57 ; at Bradford, 61 ; at Cambridge, 61
 "A Plea for Liberty" to Readers to Help Themselves (with Plan), 302
 Women's Reading-rooms, Butler Wood on, 108
 Juvenile Departments, Butler Wood on, 111
 Dust in Libraries, 199
 Mutilation of Books, 132
 Fines for, at Sheffield, 28 ; at Hanley, 62
 Fines for the Damage of Books, A. W. Robertson on, 115
 Imprisonment for Thefts of Books, &c., at Kensington, 128 ; at Cambridge, 190 ; at Wandsworth, 352
 Library Association, North Midland, Meeting of, 162
 Library Association of the United Kingdom, 276
 Report of the Council for 1891-2, 333
 Publications, 337
 Income and Expenditure, 1891-92, 341
 Gifts to the Association, 133, 339
 Monthly Meetings, 31, 69, 104, 133, 167, 195, 241, 334
 Discussions on Size Notation, 31, 69

- J. H. Quinn on Library Work in Chelsea, 31
 Miss James on Work in the People's Palace Library in 1891, 104
 Hew Morrison on the Edinburgh Public Library and Its First Year's Work, 166
 David Stott on Booksellers' Discount to Public Libraries, with Discussion, 195
 Meeting at Nottingham in 1891 :
 W. A. Copinger on a Bibliographical Society, 1
 Jos. Gilbert on some Librarian-made Books and Titles, 8
 T. B. Reed on the Use and Classification of a Typographical Library, 33
 P. Cropper on the Library of the Nottingham Mechanics' Institution, 45
 Butler Wood on Open Shelves, Women's Reading-rooms, and Juvenile Departments, 105
 Notes on Fines for the Damage of Books, by A. W. Robertson, 115
 H. R. Plomer on Local Records and Free Libraries, 137
 W. E. Doubleday on a Year's Development of the Public Library Movement in Greater London, 141
 Meeting at Paris in 1892, 121
 Letters of Welcome, 134
 Miss M. S. R. James on Women Librarians, 217
 Julien Havet on the National Library of France, 277
 Councillor H. Rawson on the Public Free Libraries of Manchester, 288
 David Stott on the Reasonableness of Free Public Libraries, with a Word to the Librarians, 298
 J. J. Ogle on a Summer School of Library Science, 319
 "Library Association Year-Book, 1892," 275
 Library Work abroad, see under France, Switzerland, Italy, America, Sydney, New Zealand, Kimberley, India, Tiflis, Japan
 Lincoln : Acts adopted, 57
 Lincoln Cathedral Library :
 A. R. Maddison on, 306
 Proposed Removal of the Library, 128
 Lister, J. W., Presentation to, 97
 Liverpool Public Library : Catalogue of Technical Books printed, 27, 103
 Livesey Library, see under Camberwell
 Local Records and Free Libraries, by H. R. Plomer, 137
 London Libraries not under the Public Libraries Acts, see British Museum, People's Palace, Incorporated Law Society, National Liberal Club, Constitutional Club, Patent Office, &c.
 London and the Public Library Movement (see also under Bermondsey, Bethnal-green, Bloomsbury, Bromley-by-Bow, Camberwell, Chelsea, Clerkenwell, Deptford, Finsbury Park, Fulham, Holborn, Islington, Kensington, Kilburn, Lewisham, Marylebone, Paddington, Penge, Poplar, Rotherhithe, St. George the Martyr, St. Luke's, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Shoreditch, Southwark, Stoke Newington, Streatham, Wandsworth, Whitechapel, Willesden, &c.) :
 A Year's Development of the Public Library Movement in Greater London, by W. E. Doubleday, 141
 Longsight, see under Manchester
 Longton Public Library :
 Opened (January 26, 1892), 59
 Mr. Pratt appointed Librarian, 59
 Los Angeles Public Library, 103
 Loughborough Public Library :
 Report, 131
 Children's Library opened, 190
 Lubbock, Sir John,
 Opened Bermondsey Library, 57
 On Public Libraries, 58
 Lupton's "Reader's Vade Mecum," 265
 Lymburn, James, on Suspended Iron Presses, 199, 241
 Lynn Stanley : Acts rejected, 59
 MACALISTER, J. Y. W.,
 On Size Notation, 71
 On Booksellers' Discount, 198
 Macdonald, Mr., on Booksellers' Discount, 198
 Macfarlane, John, on English Romance in French Translation, 1780-1830, 205
 Madeley, Mr., on Size Notation, 69
 Maddison, A. R., on Lincoln Cathedral Library, 306
 Magazine and Review Articles selected and bound together, according to Subjects on Mr. Taylor's Plan, Joseph Gilbert on, 10
 Manchester Libraries not under the Public Libraries Acts :
 Portico Library : Mr. Hardy appointed Librarian, 28
 Royal Exchange Library : Annual Meeting, 129
 Chetham's Library purchased late R. L. Nettleship's Books on Southern Italy, 269
 Owens College Library : The (E. A.) Freeman Library presented by the Legatees of the late Sir Joseph Whitworth, 269
 Manchester Public Libraries :

- Councillor H. Rawson on, 288
 Land belonging to the late Sir Joseph Whitworth offered to the Corporation for a Branch Library, 28
 Report, 131
 Books on Technical Subjects, 268
 Newton Heath Branch: Lectures, 28
 Extra Reading-Rooms to be opened in the City, 59
 Free Library in Dickenson Road, Rusholme, opened (April 30, 1892), 128, 339
 Longsight Free Library opened by Alexander Ireland (July 23, 1892), 252, 339
 Gorton Public Library: £6,000 for Purchase of Land to be borrowed, 268
 Marylebone:
 Acts rejected (March 7, 1891), 65, 143, 159, 338
 Voluntary Libraries: Report, 65
 Mason College Library, see under Birmingham
 Mason, Thomas,
 On the Salaries of Librarians, 167
 On Booksellers' Discount, 197
 Mechanics' Institute, Nottingham, see under Nottingham
 Middleton's (Prof. J. Henry) "Illuminated Manuscripts in Classical and Mediæval Times," 261
 Mines and Mining, &c., Books on, H. E. Haferkorn's Catalogue, 155
 Minet Library, see under Camberwell and Lambeth
 Mitchell Library, see under Glasgow
 Mitchell, Miss, appointed Librarian at Elgin, 158
 "Monumenta Germanicæ et Italiane Typographica," Auswahl und Text von K. Burger, Part I., 349
 Morris's (William) Reprint of William Caxton's "Golden Legend," 346
 Morrison, Hew, on the Edinburgh Public Library and its First Year's Work, 166
 Municipal Libraries of Paris, see under Paris
 Museum of Library Appliances, 31, 335
 Musical Works: List compiled by J. D. Brown for the *Magazine of Music*, 121
 NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB: F. G. Hailey appointed Assistant at the Gladstone Library, 268
 Nettleship's (Richard Lewis) Collection of Books on Southern Italy purchased by Chetham's Library, 269
 Newcastle-on-Tyne Public Library:
 Report, 131
 Grant from the Treasury, 159
 Newington (Surrey) Public Library: Acts adopted (October, 1890), 141
 Newport Public Library: Report, 64
 Newton Heath, see under Manchester
 New York State Library School; Bulletin No. 1, 133
 New Zealand Libraries, 98, 191, 194
 Nicholson Institute, see under Leek
 Nicholson's (E. W. B.) Reproduction by Photography of Two Books in the Bodleian Library, 98
 North Midland Library Association: Meeting, 162
 Nottingham Mechanics' Institution, Library of, P. Cropper on, 45
 Nottingham Meeting, see under Library Association
 Nottingham Public Library:
 Report, 64
 Reading-Rooms in Carlton Road and Popham Street opened (1891), 64
 "Mr. Briscoe's Talks about Books," 269
 Radford Branch opened, 339
 Novels, see under Fiction
 OBITUARY:
 Holborn, Robert Major, 119, 334
 Holme-Kay, E. A., 334
 Thomas, Ernest Chester, 73, 333
 Wilson, Ex-Preceptor B. W., 120, 334
 Ogle, J. J., on a Summer School of Library Science, 319
 Open Shelves, see under Library Appliances
 "Ordine della Solennissima Processione," &c.; Pamphlet printed about 1572, reproduced by Photography, 98
 Otley (Yorks) Public Library opened by Rev. Dr. Collyer (August 2, 1892), 256
 Owen, Dean, on Village Libraries, 121
 Owens College, see under Manchester
 Oxford, see Bodleian Library
 Oxford Extension Travelling Libraries, 121, 122, 192
 Pacific Mills, Lawrence, Mass., Industrial Library of, J. Samuelson on, 188
 Paddington:
 Acts rejected (1891), 144
 Donations to the Voluntary Library from F. D. Mocatta, 159, 268
 Funds needed, 352
 Pahiataua, New Zealand: Library opened, 191
 Paris Libraries, see under France
 Paris Meeting, see under Library Association
 Penge:
 Acts adopted (1891), 59, 338
 Wm. Bridle appointed Librarian, 128
 Library opened, 339
 "Pentateuch of Printing," see under Typography
 People's Palace Library:

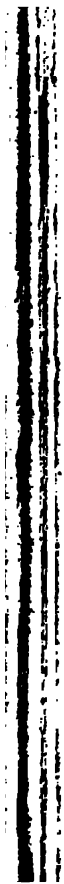
- Report, 65
 Miss James on the Work of 1891, 104
 Meeting of the Library Association at the Palace, 104
 Peterborough:
 Temporary Library opened (Sept. 29, 1892), 352
 Mr. Iastrzebski appointed Librarian, 352
 Peterhead:
 Bazaar in aid of the Fund, 353
 Gift from Andrew Carnegie, 353
 Phillips, Mr., appointed Librarian at the Carnegie Library, Ayr, 127
 Photography: The Atelier de Photographie at the National Library of France, 286
 Pirckheimer, Bilibald, of Nuremberg, Library of, 199
 Pittsburg Public Library: Donation from Andrew Carnegie, 191
 Plant, Major John, Librarian at Salford, resigned, 60; Biographical, 118
 Plant, Wm. Chas., appointed Librarian at the Shoreditch Public Library, 28
 "Playing Cards of the Master E. S. of 1466," with Essay by Dr. Max Lehrs, 260
 Plomer, H. R.,
 On Local Records and Free Libraries, 137
 On the Free Library Movement in Kent, 329
 His "Short Account of the Records of Canterbury," 157
 Plymouth Public Library: Reading Room opened at the Cattedown Board School (February 29, 1892), 160, 339
 Poetry: "Children in the Library," by A. J. Edmunds, 216
 Poplar:
 Acts adopted (December, 1890), 141
 Reading Room secured at St. Stephen's Hall, 352
 Portico Library, see under Manchester
 Portsmouth Public Library, 160
 Pratt, Mr., appointed Librarian at Longton, 59
 Pratt Institute, Brooklyn: Catalogue, 272
 Prideaux's (Miss S. T.) Bibliography of Bookbinding, 15, 51, 90
 Printing, see under Typography
 Proctor, Robert G. C., on Jan van Doesborgh, 208
 Public Libraries (see also under Libraries):
 A "Baillie's" View, 122
 The *Scotsman*, on, 165
 Progress of the Public Library Movement, 1891-2, 338
 Reasons for Diminished Circulation, 165, 166
 Notes and News, 25, 57, 96, 127, 157, 265, 351
 Reports, 60, 129, 194
 Statistical Abstracts of Reports, 66, 136
 Comparative Library Statistics: A Correction and a Warning, 101, 102, 132
 The General Election and the Library Question, 102
 The Rating of Railways for Library Purposes: Important Decision at Wandsworth, 67
 Public Libraries and Income Tax, 26, 240
 The Reasonableness of Free Public Libraries, with a Word to the Librarians, by David Stott, 298
 A List of British Libraries to be compiled by J. D. Brown, 274
 Public Libraries Acts (England) Consolidation Bill, 335; passed (June 27, 1892), 336
 Public Libraries Act, 1892 (took effect, October 1, 1892) Provisions of, 344
 Public Libraries Acts adopted:
 Bloomsbury (St. Giles's, 1891), 142
 Bromley-by-Bow (1891), 142
 Bromley, Kent (May, '92), 190, 338
 Carlisle (June 9, '90), 185
 Colchester (October 2, '91), 26, 338
 Edmonton (October, '91), 27, 338
 Enfield (March, '92), 158, 338
 Gravesend, 267
 Holborn (St. Andrew's, 1891), 142
 Jedburgh (May, '92), 190, 338
 Leigh, 268
 Leyton (November, '91), 27, 338
 Lincoln (January 23, '92), 57, 338
 Newington, Surrey (October, '90), 141
 Penge (1891), 59, 338
 Poplar (December, '90), 141
 Salford (September, '92), 353
 Shoreditch (April '91), 142
 Southwark (St. Saviour's), 28
 Tottenham (October, 1891), 338
 Walthamstow (February, '92) 97, 191, 338
 Waterloo-with-Seaforth (September 1, 1892), 270
 West Ham (November, '90) 141
 Willesden (February, '91), 142
 Wood Green (1891), 142
 York (October, '91), 60, 338
 Public Libraries Acts rejected:
 Bethnal Green (1890), 144
 Deptford (St. Paul's) (November, '90), 143
 Gainsborough (December 23, '91), 27, 338
 Greenwich (1890?), 143
 Hackney (1891), 144
 Islington (June, '91), 144
 Lynn Stanley (May, '91), 59

- Marylebone (March 7, '91), 143, 159, 338
 Paddington (1891), 144
 Public Libraries opened—New Buildings or Adaptations of Old Buildings for Library Purposes at:—
 Aberdeen, 338
 Altrincham (October 1, '92), 266
 Arlecdon and Frizington (May 30, '92), 157
 Ayr, 338
 Bermondsey (Jan. 18, '92), 57, 339
 Bingley (April 2, '92), 127
 Birmingham: Saltley Road Branch (June 5, '92), 267, 339
 Bolton: Mere Hall Branch (Aug. 22, '91), 61
 Brechin, 339
 Cardiff: Two Branch Reading-Rooms (1891), 62
 Castlebay (Jan. 30, '92), 97
 Chelsea (Jan., '91), 145
 Boys' Room at Kensal Town (Aug., '92), 268
 Clerkenwell (Oct. 10, '90), 145
 Colchester: Mile-End Branch, 158
 Derby: Lending Library (May 1, '90), 62
 Elgin (May 13, '92), 158
 Handsworth, 339
 Holborn, 339
 Hove (Oct. 24, 1892), 351
 Kensington: North Kensington Branch (Oct. 29, '91), 63, 339
 Leeds: Headingley Branch (Sept. 29, '92), 352
 Lewisham, 338
 Longton (Jan. 26, '92), 59
 Loughborough: Children's Library (June 10, '92), 190
 Manchester:
 Longsight (July 23, '92), 252, 338
 Rusholme (April 23, '92), 128, 338
 Nottingham: Two Reading-Rooms, 64
 Radford, 339
 Otley, Yorks (Aug. 2, '92), 256
 Penge, 339
 Peterborough, Temporary Library (Sept. 29, '92), 352
 Plymouth: Cattedown Board School Reading-room (Feb. 29, 1892), 160, 339
 Rotherham: Kimberworth (Jan. 18, '92), 60
 Rotherhithe (Oct. 1, '90), 145
 St. Helens: Thatto Heath Branch, 29
 St. Martin-in-the-Fields (Feb. 12, '91), 63, 145
 Stoke Newington (July 23, '92), 255, 339
 Streatham (April, '91), 145
 Swansea: Treboeth Branch (1892), 270, 339
 Watford: Reference Library (Oct. 25, '92), 353
 Whitechapel: Part of Library (May 9, 1892), 159, 339; Library and Museum (Oct. 25, 1892), 352
 Workington (Nov., '91), 29
 "Public Library Manual," 337
- QUINN, J. H.,
 On Library Work in Chelsea, 31
 On Size Notation, 71
- RADFORD, see under Nottingham
- Railways, Rating of, for Library Purposes: Important decision at Wandsworth, 67
- Rawson, Councillor H., on the Public Libraries of Manchester, 288
- Reed, Talbot Baines,
 His Edition of William Blades's "Pentateuch of Printing," 29
 On the Use and Classification of a Typographical Library, 33
- Reference Books: What are they? (Letter) 168
- Reference Departments in Public Libraries and Open Shelves, see under Library Appliances
- "Reformed Librarian Keeper" of John Durie, 81
- Remainders, Jos. Gilbert on, 324
- Rieu, Dr. Charles, Keeper of Oriental Manuscripts in the British Museum, retired, 27
- Rivoli's (Duc de) "Bibliographie des Livres à Figures Vénitiens, 1469-1525," 153
- Robertson, A. W.,
 On Comparative Library Statistics (Letter), 101
 On Fines for the Damage of books, 115
- Robinson, Matthew, Librarian at the Portico Library, Manchester, retired, 28
- Rogers's (W. T.) "Manual of Bibliography," 99
- Roman Libraries, 261
- Rome: Archbishop Smith's Library at the Scots College, 351
- Rotherham: Branch Library opened at Kimberworth (Jan. 18, 1892), 60
- Rotherhithe Public Library opened (Oct. 1, 1890), 145
- Runcorn Public Library: Report, 131
- Rusholme, see under Manchester
- ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR and a Public Library, 159
- St. Giles, see under Bloomsbury
- St. Helens:
 Thatto Heath Branch opened, 29

- Catalogue of the Sutton Branch Lending Library, 163
- St. Luke's, 59
- St. Martin-in-the-Fields Public Library opened by Mr. Gladstone (Feb. 12, 1891), 63, 145
- St. Marylebone, see under Marylebone
- St. Saviour's, see under Southwark
- Salaries of Librarians, Thomas Mason on, 167
- Sale Public Library: Sunday Opening adopted, 353
- Salem (Mass.) Public Library: Third Supplement to the Finding List, 164
- Salford Public Library: Major J. Plant, Librarian, resigned, 60
- Acts adopted, 353
- Salisbury Public Library, 270
- Samuelson, James, on the Industrial Library at the Pacific Mills, Lawrence, Mass., 188
- Scott's (Sir Walter) Waverley Novels, Chronology of, by J. Foster, 117
- "Sex quam elegantissimæ epistolæ," Reproduction in Facsimile of William Caxton's Edition, 1483, with Introduction and Translation by George Bullen, 347
- Sheffield Public Library: Reader fined for mutilating a volume, 28
- Presentation to J. W. Lister, 97
- Shelley Library proposed at Horsham, 267
- Shoreditch: Acts adopted (April, '91), 142
- W. C. Plant appointed Librarian, 28
- Sidney's (Sir Philip) "Arcadia" reproduced in Photographic Facsimile, and edited by Dr. H. O. Sommer, 264
- Simpson, William, appointed Librarian at Baillie's Institution, Glasgow, 27
- Sinker's (Dr. Robert) "Library of Trinity College, Cambridge," 100
- Size-Notation: Report of Committee, 31, 147, 167
- Discussion on, 69
- Table of Sizes of Books, 150
- Slater's (H.) "Book Collecting: a Guide for Amateurs," 263
- Smart's (Thomas Burnett) "Bibliography of Matthew Arnold," 258
- Smethwick Public Library: Report, 131
- Smith (G. J.), appointed Librarian to the Belfast Library, 25
- Sommer's (Dr. H. Oskar) Edition of Sir Philip Sidney's "Arcadia," 264
- Southampton: Foundation Stone of Public Library laid, 353
- Southport Public Library: Report, 64
- Southsea Public Library: Branch Free Library over the Police-station proposed, 97
- South Shields Public Library: Report, 131
- Southwark (St. Saviour's): Acts adopted (Nov., 1891), 28, 338
- Design for New Building, 352
- Sporting News, see under Betting
- State Papers: a Plea for Annual Lists, by F. B. F. Campbell, 175
- Stockton-on-Tees Public Library: The News-Room open on Sundays, 60
- Report, 131
- Stoke Newington Public Library opened by J. Passmore Edwards (July 23, 1892), 255, 339
- Stott, David, On Booksellers' Discount to Public Libraries, 195, 199
- On the Reasonableness of Free Public Libraries, with a Word to the Librarians, 298
- Streatham Public Library opened (April, 1891), 145
- Stroud Public Library: Report, 194
- Subscription Libraries, 132, 191; Cardiff, 61; Wimbledon, 64; Leek, 191
- Summer School of Library Science, proposed by J. J. Ogle, 319
- Sunday Opening of Libraries: Experiments at Stockton-on-Tees, 60; Darlington, 97; Bermondsey, 128; Leek, 130; Sale, 353; and Sunderland, 353
- Sunday Opening at the National Library of France, 280
- Sunderland Public Library: Sunday Opening, 353
- Suspended Iron Presses, James Lymburn on, 199, 241
- Swansea Public Library: Report, 132
- Branch at Treboeth opened (1892), 270, 339
- Switzerland: The Bibliothèque Publique, Geneva, Report, 195
- Sydney Free Public Library: Report, 65
- TECHNICAL EDUCATION, The Libraries and:—Aberdeen, 265; Altrincham, 25; Bootle, 267; Cardiff, 61; Eastbourne, 127
- Catalogue of Technical Books at Liverpool, 27, 103
- List of Technical Works at Manchester, 268
- The Forney and other Libraries, Paris, 247
- Industrial Library at the Pacific Mills, Lawrence, Mass., J. Samuelson on, 188
- Technical Instruction for Library Assistants, see under Librarians
- Tedder, H. R., on Size Notation, 70
- Thatto Heath, see under St. Helens

- Thefts from Libraries, Imprisonment for,
at Kensington, 128; at Cambridge,
190; at Wandsworth, 352
Thomas, Ernest Chester, In Memoriam,
73, 333
Thurso Public Library, 270
Tickets: Legality of Charging for Them,
133
Ticknor, George, on Espinosa's "Flores,"
201
Tiflis Public Library, 122
Titles of Books:
On Some Librarian-made Titles, by
Jos. Gilbert, 8
Tokyo Public Library: Report, 195
Tonbridge Public Library: Report, 64
Torquay and a Public Library, 29
Travelling Libraries, 122, 192
Mrs. T. H. Green's Donation to Ox-
ford, 121
Treboeth, see under Swansea
Tredwell's (Daniell M.) "Monograph on
Privately Illustrated Books," 126
Tynemouth Public Library: New Build-
ing proposed, 97
Typography:
William Blades's "Pentateuch of
Printing, with a Chapter on Judges,"
with Memoir and List of Works by
T. B. Reed, 29
On the Use and Classification of a
Typographical Library, by T. B.
Reed, 33
Reproduction of Photography of Two
Little Books in the Bodleian Library
—"Ars Moriendi," and "Ordine
della Solennissima Processione," &c.,
98
Jan van Doesborgh, by R. G. C.
Proctor, 208
"The Press of North Carolina in the
Eighteenth Century," by Dr. S. B.
Weeks, 259
"The Golden Legend" of William
Caxton, reprinted by William Morris
at the Kelmscott Press, 346
"The Dialogue or Communion between
the wise King Solomon and Mar-
colphus," edited by E. Gordon Duff,
347
"Sex quam elegantissimæ epistolæ,"
Reproduction in Facsimile of William
Caxton's Edition, 1483, with Intro-
duction and Translation by George
Bullen, 347
"Monumenta Germaniae et Italiae
Typographica," Auswahl und Text
von K. Burger, Part I., 349
VILLAGE LIBRARIES, Dean Owen on, 121
Vivian, Herbert, on the True Catherine
of Aragon, 169
WAIPAWA, NEW ZEALAND: Funds raised
for Library, 191
Wakeling, G., on Booksellers' Discount,
198
Walthamstow and a Public Library, 29
Acts adopted, 97, 191
Site and £300 contributed by T.
Courtenay Warner, 160
Walton-on-the-Hill and a Public Library,
160
Wandsworth Public Library:
Important Decision with regard to the
Rating of Railways, 67
Woman imprisoned for Stealing a Book,
352
Wanganui (New Zealand) Library:
Catalogue, 191
Report, 194
Waterloo-with-Seaforth and a Public
Library, 160
Acts adopted (Sept. 1), 270
Watford:
Reference Library opened (Oct. 25,
1892), 353
Watson, D., on Carlisle Public Library,
185
Waverley Novels, Chronology of, by
John Foster, 117
Weare, W., appointed Assistant Librarian
at Whitechapel, 190
Wedgwood (Hensleigh) Collection of
Books presented to Mason College,
Birmingham, 72
Weeks's (Dr. Stephen B.) "Press of
North Carolina in the Eighteenth
Century," 259
Wensley: Memorial Stone of New Library
laid, 353
West Bromwich Public Library:
The Reference Library re-opened, 29;
Contribution from the Clarendon Press,
97
Report, 132
West Ham Public Library:
Acts adopted (Nov., 1890), 141
W. H. Bagguley appointed Sub-
Librarian, 129, 270
Whitechapel Public Library:
Part of Library opened (May 9, 1892),
159, 339
W. Weare appointed Assistant Li-
brarian, 190
Library and Museum opened by Lord
Rosebery (Oct. 25, 1892), 352
Whitworth, The late Sir Joseph,
His Gift to Manchester Corporation, 28
His Gift of the "E. A. Freeman"
Library to Owens College, 269
Wick: Andrew Carnegie's offer, 354
Wigan Public Library:
A Boys' Reading-room to be started,
191

- Catalogue of Works relating to Freemasonry, 272
- Willesden : Acts adopted (Feb., 1891), 142
- Wilson, Ex-Preceptor, of Glasgow, Death of, 120, 334
- Wimbledon Public Library : Report, 64
Catalogue, 271
- Winsford Public Library : Report, 64
- Wolverhampton Public Library : Report, 64
- Women Librarians :
Miss M. S. R. James on, 217
Women Assistants in the Manchester Libraries, 292
- Women Librarians invited to Chicago, 273
- Women's Reading Rooms, Butler Wood on, 108
- Wood, Butler,
On Open Reference Shelves, 105
On Women's Reading-Rooms, 108
On Juvenile Libraries, 111
- Wood Green : Acts adopted, 142
- Workington : Library opened (Nov., 1891), 29
- Wright, W. H. K., on Booksellers' Discount, 198
- "YEAR-BOOK, 1892, of the Library Association," 275, 338
- York : Acts adopted, 60



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The Library

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Contents.

	PAGE
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FRANCE; by JULIEN HAVET -	277
THE PUBLIC FREE LIBRARIES OF MANCHESTER; THEIR HISTORY, ORGANIZATION AND WORK; by COUNCILLOR HARRY RAWSON - - - - -	288
THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY - - - - -	295
THE REASONABLENESS OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES, WITH A WORD TO THE LIBRARIANS; by DAVID STOTT - - -	298
"A PLEA FOR LIBERTY" TO READERS TO HELP THEMSELVES -	302
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL LIBRARY; by REV. A. R. MADDISON, M.A.	306
A PLAN FOR PROVIDING TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION FOR LIBRARY STUDENTS; by MISS M. S. R. JAMES - - -	313
A SUMMER SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SCIENCE; by MR. J. J. OGLE	319
REMAINDERS; by MR. JOSEPH GILBURT - - - - -	324
THE FREE LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN THE COUNTY OF KENT; by MR. J. R. PLOMER - - - - -	329
REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE L.A.U.K. - - - - -	333
THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE:	
Public Libraries Act, 1892 - - - - -	344
Record of Bibliography and Library Literature: Morris's Edition of <i>The Golden Legend of master William Caxton</i> ; Gordon Duff's Edition of <i>The Dialogue between Solomon and Marcolphus</i> ; Bullen's Edition of Caxton's <i>Sex quam elegantissima epistola</i> ; Blade's <i>Books in Chains, &c.</i> ; Burger's <i>Monumenta Germaniæ et Italiæ Tyographica</i> ; Lang's <i>The Library</i> - - - - -	346
Library Notes and News - - - - -	351
EDITORIAL: Apology; Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the L.A.U.K. - - - - -	355
Library Association - - - - -	356



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